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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

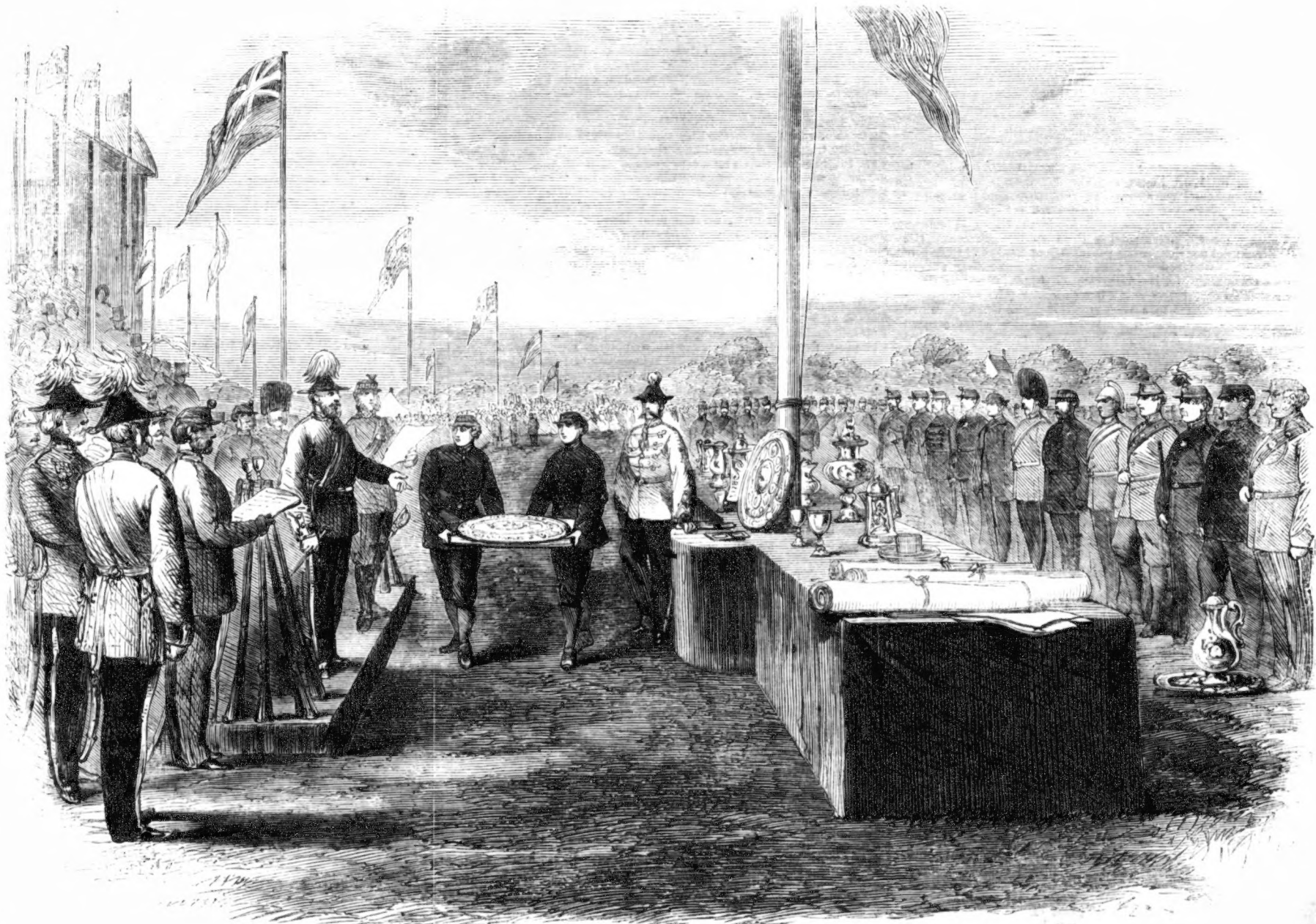
AMONG the many remarkable events which are rendering the present era for ever memorable in the annals of mankind, those are most worthy of record which have reference to the revival of dormant and almost extinct nationalities. Until very recently there were few persons who did not despair of the future of Italy. It was the fashion to speak of the Italians as a degenerate and degraded race, possessed of fine voices and a rare taste for music, but utterly devoid of the higher order of manly attributes. The last few years, however, have shown with what ease and rapidity a nation endowed with genuine vitality shakes off the dust of ages and comes forth renovated in beauty and vigour. There is now very little danger of the Mediterranean ever becoming a French lake. As the kingdom of Italy acquires stability the old spirit of the people will rekindle and blaze high as a beacon to the nations of the earth. If once superstition be fairly eradicated, and the traces of bad government effaced, there is nothing to retard the progress of one of the most gifted populations in the world. Neither the Gaul nor the Teuton will avail to reimpose the fetters which have now been shaken off once and for ever. It is, of course, neither to be expected nor desired that a fresh career of conquest should open out before the newly-constituted kingdom. A high authority, indeed, has said that the age of conquests is past. The triumphs now to be obtained are the rewards of pre-eminence in the arts of peace, and in those sciences which administer to the material comforts and moral improvement of the human race. Running far out into the great international sea of contention, it seems to be the mission of Italy to serve, as it were, as a sort of political break-water separating the two chief aggressive Powers of Europe—Russia and France. For the moment, indeed, she may be somewhat too much under French domination; but the time will speedily arrive when, confident in her own strength and in the moral support of all unambitious States, she will herself exercise the highest influence throughout the Mediterranean, repressing the aggressive tendencies of the military Powers and cultivating commercial relations with all her neighbours. Scarcely, if at all, inferior in interest is the revival of the

Spanish nation. Arousing herself from a lethargy of three centuries' duration, Spain is fast recovering her ancient position among the States of Europe. Curiously enough, her first assertion of her new powers was at the expense of her hereditary enemies, and the Moors of Morocco were forced to flee before the descendants of the gallant knights who in the olden time expelled the Mussulman from the Spanish soil. A narrow-minded jealousy has been expressed in certain quarters touching a Spanish occupation of the Moorish coast, and Ministers are emphatically warned that the security of Gibraltar will be imperilled if Tangiers be wrested from the empire of Morocco. But if the conditions of the late treaty are set at naught by the Moorish Government what Power shall presume to step in between Spain and the exercise of her just rights? And, so far as this country is concerned, it is surely better that the coast of Africa, opposite our own great fortress, should be in the hands of the Spaniards than in those of the French. There are some, indeed, who persist in believing, or at least in affirming, that, in the event of any future war between England and France, Spain will always be found in alliance with the latter. It is not by any means certain, however, that such would be the case under a strong Government. In fact, Spain has at all times suffered from acting as an auxiliary to her ambitious and restless neighbour. Neither substantial advantage nor the glimmer of military glory has ever fallen to her share. It has ever been after the manner of the famous compact between the dwarf and the giant—the former receiving the wounds, the latter carrying off both fame and profit. It is therefore the soundest, as well as the most generous, policy to abstain from all jealous interference with the work of regeneration now going on in Spain. A few words of kindly sympathy may make her for ever the friend of England, whereas a system of intervention must inevitably alienate that proud and sensitive people, and impel them into the open arms of the French.

Hungary, too, and even crushed and mutilated Poland, are firmly and irrepressibly struggling onward to the recovery of their ancient independence. It may be that neither Polish chiefs nor Hungarian Magyars ever appreciated liberty as

meaning universal equality before the law; but, at least, neither they nor their followers had to bow the neck to a foreign master. Public opinion is now fighting on their side, and if they will only be content to abide their time, and patiently permit the whirligig of time to bring round those changes and chances which come to all in turn, their future emancipation may be regarded as a certainty.

And shall we refuse all sympathy to the Ottoman race? What though they are intruders in Europe and encamped on classic soil? Have not they, too, exhibited a wild chivalry of the most romantic order, and a fierce vigour that once seemed to threaten the very existence of Christianity? No one can deny them the praise of valour, of an unquestioning faith, and of a wonderful vitality. There is now a chance of their regeneration also. A sincere but enlightened Mohammedan is now seated on the throne, and has already given promise of a firm, just, and progressive administration. There is undoubtedly more hope for the Turk than for the Greek, and this partly because the latter has no great abiding principle of cohesive and united action. If Greece had ever possessed a recognised capital, such as Rome was to Italy, her fate might have been very different. On the only occasion on which the chief Grecian States acted in unison they repelled the invader with comparative ease and won a deathless reputation. But, with that one exception, they have always been beaten in detail through their miserable jealousies of one another. For many centuries it was much the same in Italy, till hatred of the Austrian formed a bond of union to all the States in the peninsula. Difference of religion, more than any other cause, worked out the independence of the little kingdom of Belgium; and the same powerful lever is now at work labouring to wrench Poland from the empire of the Muscovites. Difference of language in like manner keeps open the breach between Austria and Hungary, nor is any real fusion ever possible without perfect toleration in religious matters and the prevalence of one recognised tongue. We look forward, then, with calm and assured confidence to the gradual redressing of the wrongs of past ages and the ultimate vindication of the eternal principles of justice, liberty, and truth.



THE RIFLE-SHOOTING CONTEST AT WIMBLEDON.—H. R. H. THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE PRESENTING THE PRIZES TO THE SUCCESSFUL COMPETITORS.

THE NATIONAL RIFLE MATCH.

THE SHOOTING.

The proceedings at Wimbledon yesterday week were very important, a large number of prizes being shot for, and the famous rifle Derby finally decided. The money prizes were competed for at the three ranges of 200, 500, and 600 yards, five shots at each range; and the three prizes were won by Sergeant Gibbs, of Bristol; Mr. E. Ross, of the Cambridge University; and Mr. Ryrie, of the 2nd Camberland. The Prince Consort's prize was also decided in favour of Major Moir, of the Stirling Rifles. The Duke of Cambridge's prize, shot for at 500, 600, 800, and 1000 yards, was won yesterday by Captain Ross, of the 6th Kincardineshire. The Association Cup, for which there were 268 entries, was won by Captain Ross. The Earl of Dudley's prize of £50 excited a great deal of interest, and some remarkably good scores were made. The winner is Mr. Rowe, of the Devon Volunteers. Mr. Bennett's prize, a watch, was won by Sergeant Stapleton, of the Coldstream Guards. The Duke of Wellington's prize was won by Sergeant Potter, who made seven points.

Some enthusiastic volunteers were left on Saturday morning with an appetite for powder and shot still unsatisfied. The result of this was an extempore match between the two Universities—Cambridge being represented by Messrs. E. Ross and Peterkin; Oxford by Sergeant Nonsworthy and Mr. Owen. The conditions of the match were ten rounds at 800, 900, and 1000 yards. Cambridge won easily, making 60 points against 27.

DISTRIBUTION OF PRIZES.

The distribution of the prizes took place on Saturday. In the centre of the front of the Grand Stand, at about fifty paces distant, a platform of one step was raised, and opposite to this, at ten paces, was placed a long table or sideboard, both platform and table being covered with crimson cloth. Upon the table, in shining array, were the various prizes to be given. Conspicuous among these were the Collini Shield (the Public Schools prize), the Association Cup, Prince Albert's Prize Cup, worth 100 guineas; several tankards and other pieces of plate—the whole constituting a goodly display. Behind these stood a line of the prize-winners, the "observed of all observers"—Messrs. Leece, Moir, Ross, McFarlane, Thornbury, Jeston, Dickens, Compton, Wigram, Porter, Thomas, Halliday, Simonds, Bingham, Ick, Brayn, White, Cole, Hitchcock, Talbot, Gibbs, Ryrie, Rowe, Dougan, Blackburn, Stapleton, Potter, Ross, Breece, Palmer, Fraser, Macgregor, Brooke, Hendrie, Smith, McHardy, Williamson, Harding, Fellows, Coward, Nonsworthy, Young, Marriner, Coeks, Jervis, Colquhoun, Bidder, Rillet, Greig, Peterkin, Margary, Brown, Dunlop, Oxley, Feilding, Scott, Booth, Marriott, Hensley, Plaskett, Stewart, Robinson, Adams, Bingham, Goodliffe, Rashton, Jopling, Brook, and Kirkwood. Behind them were arranged, as a guard of honour, the London Scottish Rifles, and a company of the South Middlesex (Mr. Jopling's regiment), each of them, in honour of their comrade's victory, wearing a leaf of laurel in their caps.

At a quarter-past three bang went the gun, the Royal standard was run up, a cheer came along the line, and the Duke of Cambridge, followed by his Staff, came up, dismounted, and ascended the platform under a general salute. His Royal Highness was accompanied by General McDonald and General Sir James Yorke Scarlett, and was received at the platform by Lord Elcho, Sir A. Horsford, General Seymour, Earl Spencer, Sir Joseph Paxton, M.P., Colonel Kinnaird, Colonel Gladstone, Lord Radstock, Mr. Deedes, M.P., the Earl of Longford, Sir E. Poore, Major Neilson, Major Wilkinson, Count d'Audigné, Captain Mildmay, &c.

The Duke of Cambridge, who had evidently come to perform an office that afforded him great pleasure, said:—

I am very happy to be here to-day in the performance of my duty as President of the National Rifle Association, and to find that this meeting has been so successful. There has been a great number of prizes shot for, but almost to the very last the competition has been so close that it has not always been certain that those who have lost have of necessity been the worst shots, although, unhappily not successful. I hope I shall have many other opportunities of meeting you; and I am sure, as far as you are concerned, that it will be your desire still further to increase your efficiency in shooting, as, believe me, it will be a source of great pleasure to me to see that you have made great progress in this important branch of the volunteer service. This is a very satisfactory state of things. I trust that every year we shall have a continuance, not only of the support which we have had this year, but that we shall have additional support from all the volunteers of the country. As far as you are concerned, gentlemen, it gives me great satisfaction to have the honour of distributing the prizes on this occasion.

The official list of the winners was then placed in the hands of his Royal Highness by Lord Elcho, and the distribution commenced. Several of the competitors carried off two, three, and even four prizes, and these gentlemen were loudly cheered as they came up for their extra honours. To each of them his Royal Highness made a few kind observations, congratulating them on their success. His Royal Highness did not deliver the patent safe to Ensign Halliday, of the Civil Service, who had won that cumbersome and rather absurd trophy for a rifleman. Mr. Halliday very wisely preferred two silver cups instead. In awarding Storm's breech-loader (the breech-loading apparatus was affixed to a Whitworth rifle), the Duke examined its simple mechanism with much interest. He also complimented Mr. McFarlane, of the Australian Volunteers, and said he hoped his example and his success would be emulated by the volunteers from other countries. A large proportion of the prizes were carried off by the competitors from the Scottish volunteer regiments. Three of the best—the Duke of Cambridge's, the Prince of Wales's, and the Prince Consort's—were awarded in succession to the representatives of the Kincardine, Perth, and Stirling volunteers, at which the London Scottish regiment cheered amazingly, as well they might. In fact, Scotland and the Metropolitan regiments have carried off the honours of the contest. When Mr. Jopling came forward to receive his prize the cheering was loud and prolonged. The Duke shook hands with him and most warmly congratulated him on his success. Mr. Jopling took his prize in money. Our Engraving depicts the presentation of the shield to the representatives of the Rugby and Harrow Schools.

THE REVIEW.

The volunteers had bad weather for their review. As they began to arrive clouds obscured the sun, and indications of coming showers were apparent. Those regiments which arrived first made themselves as comfortable as they could, piling arms and sitting on the grass. The spectators unfurled their umbrellas, and some volunteers donned their waterproof capes. The Grand Stand began to fill in spite of the high charge for admission; and, although the rain fell heavily for an hour, spectators on foot, on horseback, and in carriages continued to pour in. There were crowds on all the roads leading to the review-ground, and much cheering at different points as the regiments came up. The Duke of Cambridge, with a brilliant Staff, saw that the regiments got properly into position.

When all the preliminary arrangements were completed the forces appeared in two lines of contiguous quarter-distance columns facing the butts, having the Grand Stand on the right, at some distance, and the road on the left. The mounted artillery and guns of the Honourable Artillery Company were on the extreme left, and occupied a position in the road leading from Wimbledon to Kingston and Combe Wood. The movements were commenced by the first line, formed of three brigades; and the object of the troops appeared to be to attack and drive off a body of the enemy, supposed to be in position, in great force, beyond the butts. The advance was covered by skirmishers. The Inns of Court and London Rifles went out in beautiful order, and soon a quick dropping fire and thin white line of smoke marked the front and great extent of the whole position. The ground up to the butts was beautifully level, but beyond this it became broken and uneven, and thickly studded with lumps of farze, each group of which the skirmishers seemed to

convert into a regular fortress, from which their quick, close fire came in an incessant rattle. Their advance had been very gallant, but apparently they had an equally determined enemy to deal with; for, after keeping up a continued fusillade for some time, the bugle at last sounded for the reserves, who, nothing loth to obey the summons, and leave the wet ground on which they had been lying, hurried up in support before the first notes of the call had ceased to sound. Their addition to the crackling musketry in front was soon evident, but still the skirmishers gained no ground, and, after a protracted struggle, the whole of the first division, under Sir Richard Airey, received orders to move forward. The advance of their long line for a time was beautifully executed, till at length the centre—in their anxiety, we presume, to close with the enemy—got rather in advance of the right and left wings, so that a halt was called while the line was dressed. It was only the delay of a minute, and with a line of such immense length the same thing frequently occurs with regular troops. The instant the line was dressed the advance was continued in perfect order, and moved rapidly forward with a solidity and evenness that deserved the very highest praise. The huge rifle-butts, fringed at the top with rows of spectators, at last broke up the level plain into a series of rough, uneven gorges, through which the line poured by regiments in sections of four. Beyond this the ground was uneven, and clumped with furze; yet, in spite of all obstacles, the line re-formed in beautiful order, and continued their advance. It was now supposed that the enemy were in great force, and especially strong in cavalry, for the skirmishers were recalled in haste, while a tremendous file fire was opened along the whole line. In the meantime, seeing that it was to be a general action, and a very hot one, the three brigades forming the second division, under General Sir Yorke Scarlett, hastily formed up and advanced in quarter-distance columns in support. Apparently their aid, though promptly rendered, came too late, for the whole line of the first division began a retreat. It was accomplished rapidly and in good order, the Inns of Court and London Rifles skirmishing beautifully to cover the movement. Suddenly the skirmishers were called in, while the first line, wheeling into sections of four, passed rapidly between the intervals of the advancing second division. The reason for this hasty withdrawal was soon apparent. A cavalry attack was threatened, and as the columns of the first division prepared to re-form under cover of the second, the latter were instantly formed into a chain of massive bristling squares that stretched across the plain in a series of most formidable live redoubts. These squares were really admirably formed, and with a rapidity that was astonishing. They kept up a well-sustained fire upon the imaginary cavalry. The enemy was imagined on the extreme left to have been held in check by the guns and difficult nature of the ground, and therefore to have attacked with cavalry over the level ground, and endeavoured to turn the right flank of the second division. This attack compelled a change of front on the part of the whole second line, and this in real action most difficult and dangerous manoeuvre being unopposed at Wimbledon was of course got through with safety, and what is more, with a rapidity and solid precision that elicited the approbation of all officers on the ground. The steadiness of the South Middlesex in coming into line was above all praise. The line was formed across the ground facing the Grand Stand, and extending far away on the south towards the rifle-butts, and volley-firing instantly commenced, followed by file-firing, kept up with sustained deafening uproar that was tremendous, and seemed to shake the very air. This heavy fire was at last supposed to have the desired effect upon the enemy, for the bugle sounded to cease firing, and a long jingling rattle ran along the line, softening into a mere tinkle in the distance as the whole mass fixed bayonets. The advance was ordered, and the line swept grandly on, gradually getting into double time as the words "Prepare to charge!" were passed along from rank to rank. In another instant the bayonets were levelled in a shining row, and the whole mass passed over the plain with a rush as resistless, apparently, as the sweep of destiny. It was a grand charge, and it would have been a perfect movement if the South Middlesex, who did not hear the command to halt, had not rushed beyond the line of their comrades. This partially marred the otherwise beautiful evenness of the advance. This last grand charge concluded the movements of the day, which had been often almost marred, but at no time interrupted, by flying showers of rain that every minute threatened to become severe.

The troops next drew up in quarter-distance columns for marching past. The advantage of the grey uniforms could now be seen. The Artillery Company, looking like a regiment of the Household troops, were full in view, each man a conspicuous mark—far better than the marks at which the rifle prizes of the meeting had been won. Among the uniforms, such as the London and the Victoria, which are called "invisible green"—we presume from the fact of nothing like green being discoverable in them—the mass stood clearly out upon the plain, though individuals would have made but poor marks. With such variations of the grey, however, as are to be found in the Inns of Court, the Queen's, the South Middlesex, London Scottish, Artists, &c., not only the men, but even whole regiments were barely discernible at 500 yards amid the neutral tints of watery sky and heather with which they were surrounded. As soon as the troops had formed up his Royal Highness, attended by his Staff, rode to the flagstaff in front of the Grand Stand, and the whole line began sweeping round the common with a perfect regularity of step that would have done credit to any assemblage of Line regiments in the kingdom. There is nothing which really and more severely tests regimental drill than this plain manoeuvre, and, with scarcely a single exception, the volunteers at Wimbledon went through the ordeal most creditably. The London Brigade gained great applause; and, with the Inns of Court, the South Middlesex, the Victoria, and the Artillery Company, carried off the honours of the day.

Judged as a whole, it was a display of which the entire metropolis may well be proud, for the corps assembled at Wimbledon were, after all, only specimens of what the metropolitan regiments can turn out when required. This display also settled the question of the fitness of Wimbledon for such great gatherings, and showed it to be what it really is—the best and most convenient ground to be found anywhere near London.

Two unfortunate accidents occurred during the advance of the first line. Mr. Steadman, of Lytton, a member of the 5th Essex Regiment, lost two of the fingers of his right hand by the accidental discharge of his rifle; and another gentleman, belonging, we are told, to the London Rifles, was wounded in the back by a blank cartridge.

SIAMESE PRODUCE.—When the Siamese Ambassadors came to England some three or four years since they brought with them about four score boxes, containing specimens of the produce of their country. This precious cargo was stowed most carefully away in the cellars of the Foreign Office, where, a few weeks ago, the boxes giving unpleasant indication of their existence, they were examined, and found to contain various food and animal products. This has led to their transference to the South Kensington Museum. No room at present exists for the exhibition of the whole of the collection, but a few specimens of the food products are exposed in a case in the food department. They consist of elephants' trunks, rhinoceros' hide, sharks' fins, deer's tendons, and gelatinous delicacies of that kind, and also of edible birds' nests, dried fish, betel nuts, tobacco, and various unknown seeds. These are only a portion of the collection, which has suffered a good deal during its seclusion, especially the tubs containing varieties of *beches de mer*, sea-slugs, dried cockles, and other small marine delicacies of a perishable nature.

GYMNASTICS IN COBURG-GOTHA.—In the metropolis of Coburg-Gotha there has been a very remarkable meeting of the German shooting guilds, and of the widespread associations for gymnastic exercise, or the "turners." This fraction of the German people availed themselves of the opportunity to constitute a sort of out-of-door Parliament, carrying resolutions with perfect unanimity. They expressed their gratitude to the Duke of Coburg-Gotha for his chivalrous sacrifice for promoting the unity of Germany by the military convention with Prussia. At the final meeting the Duke was in the chair.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There have been many contradictory reports this week as to the health of the Emperor. Upon the whole, it seems that he is only suffering from slight indisposition.

The Emperor has addressed a letter to the King of Prussia, congratulating his Majesty on his escape from assassination.

The first division of the French squadron has sailed, or is about to sail, from Toulon. The squadron is accompanied by the iron-cased frigate *La Gloire*.

SPAIN.

A correspondent of the *Brussels Independence*, writing from Madrid, describes the Spanish insurrection in a very different manner from that in which the journals of the Spanish capital have treated it. He states that the rebels number several thousands, and that when the troops surrounded Loja they fled to the mountains only in order to gain time to strengthen and organise themselves. The Spanish General opened fire upon Loja, which, according to the writer, was not answered by a single shot, none of the rebels being in the town. Nevertheless, it is asserted that the cannonade and fusillade were continued, and that many people, including several women and children, were killed. The Spanish General then made a kind of triumphal entry into the town, which the writer describes as swimming in the blood of people who were not in the slightest degree responsible for the insurrection. This account the writer affirms emphatically to be the truth.

A stricter watch is to be kept over the press in Spain, and Senor Posada Herrera has issued a circular to the Governors of provinces, commencing, "The most efficacious instrument of the revolutionary propaganda is the printing-press," and enjoining them to apply vigilantly the existing law on the subject. The Governors are also to watch all public societies, whether their ostensible object be learning or trade, whether among employers or workmen, and to deal with them accordingly.

It is asserted, and denied, that the Loja insurrection has ramifications extending into Portugal.

ITALY.

All the accounts received for some time past from the Neapolitan provinces have represented them to be in a state of perfect anarchy, arising from the desperate doings of the disbanded Neapolitan troops. That these accounts have not been exaggerated was lately confirmed by Signor Minghetti in the Chamber of Deputies at Turin, who acknowledged that public security was seriously compromised in the southern provinces, but he felt confident that the firmness and good intention of the Government, with the support of Parliament, would lead to a solution of the difficulties. The Chamber at once gave a proof of their willingness to aid the Government by passing a vote of confidence. One of the last telegrams from Rome states that Francis II. had had a secret conference with the brigand chief Cialdine, and that the arms of the late Bourbon army have been distributed among the reactionary bands.

General Cialdini has now full powers "as Lieutenant-General of Naples." Count San Martino, the Lieutenant-Governor (who objected to Cialdini's independent military authority in the Neapolitan provinces), resigned, and Cialdini is appointed in his place. The Royal troops have been engaged in several conflicts with the brigands in the southern provinces, and inflicted on them very great losses.

The National Committee of Genoa have appealed to Garibaldi to interpose his authority in order to put a stop to duelling between the Garibaldian and the regular officers. Garibaldi has undertaken to publish a letter which, it is hoped, may have the desired effect.

AUSTRIA AND HUNGARY.

Much interest centres around the present proceedings going forward in Vienna with regard to the arrangement of the Hungarian question. The Austrian Government are determined, it is said, not to concede anything beyond the limits of the Imperial decree of February, and Hungary is to be requested at once to send her representatives to the Council of the Empire. A telegram from Vienna conveys the impression that the Hungarian deputation are likely to give way.

The party in Croatia who seek a distinctive nationality have triumphed over those who desire union with Hungary. At the sitting of the Croatian Diet in Agram, on the 13th, the proposal for the separation of Croatia from Hungary was adopted by an immense majority.

According to the official *Vienna Gazette*, the balance of Austrian revenue against expenditure is very much more favourable for the year 1860 than it was for 1859.

The *Ost Deutsche Post* reports that Baron Vay, Chancellor for Hungary, has definitively tendered his resignation, which has been accepted by the Emperor.

The Archduke Charles Louis has resigned the governorship of the Tyrol.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

The National Bank of Russia has raised its rate of discount to 7 per cent. Orders have been given for the issue of small silver money to the amount of 6,000,000 roubles, the standard of which is to be 72 per cent of silver; and copper money to the amount of 3,000,000 roubles.

It is stated that the Russian Government have telegraphed to Warsaw ordering that the elections for the municipal, provincial, and district councils shall be suspended for the present. Popular dissatisfaction, it will be remembered, was expressed very clearly when the nature of the so called concessions, which included the formation of those councils, was announced.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

The Imperial hatt issued by the new Sultan contains the most earnest promises of a just and equal, as well as an energetic and economic, administration of the Ottoman empire. The reforms made in the Imperial household have been even more sweeping than was at first supposed.

A very great sensation was created in Constantinople by the sudden and ignominious manner in which the late Seraskier, Riza Pacha, was dismissed, and even placed under a species of *duress* amounting to virtual arrest. It seems, however, that the Marquis de Lavalette has obtained for Riza Pacha a pension of 40,000 piastres a month. The inquiry into the accounts of the late Seraskier has been abandoned.

Hasib Pacha, Minister of Civil List and Mint, has been dismissed. Ali Pacha has been appointed Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Fud Pacha President of the Councils of Justice and of the Tanzimat, for the elaboration of laws, the administration of the interior, and the revision of judicial sentences.

The Sultan, among other reforms, is turning his attention to a new organisation of the Ottoman fleet, and has decided on sending two superior officers to England and France to examine all the latest improvements in shipbuilding. He has given an instance of his liberal views by appointing two Christians to important offices at Constantinople.

Signor Durando and the Marquis de Lavalette have left Constantinople.

INDIA, CHINA, AND JAPAN.

By a telegram to the Secretary of State for India we learn that copious showers of rain had fallen in the Upper Provinces of India generally. The famine-stricken districts will now recover their accustomed fertility. Much suffering still exists, however, in the Punjab. Mr. Laing is on his way to England.

Matters in China are very quiet, and from Japan we learn that the Government is giving substantial proofs of its desire to maintain friendly relations with foreigners.

NEW ZEALAND.

The unsatisfactory information has reached us that in New Zealand the natives were preparing to renew hostilities, and that a general native insurrection was anticipated.

THE AMERICAN CONFLICT.

Congress met on the 4th inst. Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, was elected Speaker. The President's Message was delivered next day. It is described as strongly warlike. It calls on Congress for 400,000 men and 400,000,000 dollars.

The Secretary of the Treasury in his report recommends a heavy duty on coffee, sugar, and molasses; a light direct taxation, and loans to the amount of 240,000,000 dollars.

A minor division of the "rebels" has been routed in Western Virginia. Large bodies of Federal troops were still crossing the Potomac. A battle was regarded as imminent.

The Tennessee Secession troops had left Knoxville in order to prevent the advance of Federal troops into East Tennessee.

All the Baltimore Police Commissioners have been arrested, and the military remain posted throughout the city.

The Secessionists have succeeded in getting possession of a steamer belonging to Baltimore and plying between that port and the Maryland side of the Potomac. The following account of the affair is from the *Baltimore Exchange*:-

The St. Nicholas, on her last trip from Baltimore, took on board as passenger a French lady of dark complexion, of rather masculine features, but of quiet manners. There were also a number of passengers who were proceeding to different points on the Potomac. At Point Look-out two more passengers were also taken on board. Soon after this, in the middle of the night, the French woman, having retired for a few moments to her state room, suddenly emerged, her wig and petticoat doffed, in full military costume, with revolvers and cutlass by her side. Twenty-five passengers drew revolvers at the same time, and in a trice officers and crew were made prisoners. The boat was put in charge of the Point Look-out passengers, who proved to be retired navy officers. The steamer was then run into Cone River, on the Virginia side, where the passengers, who were treated with great civility, were all landed, and a company of 100 Tennesseans, who were in readiness, were taken aboard. The St. Nicholas then headed up the river, in search of the Pawnee, it being part of the programme of this gallant young Colonel—for such he is—to run into the Pawnee, take her by surprise, leap on board, and take possession of her. Not being able to find the Pawnee, the St. Nicholas turned round, and steamed for the bay between Smith's Point and Rappahannock. The steamer fell in at different times with three vessels—one loaded with coffee, one with coal, and one with ice. These were all captured and taken to Fredericksburg, where the heroes of this achievement were received with military honours.

On the other hand, the Quaker City had captured off Charleston a new clipper-ship, having on board 40,000 stand of arms, a number of brass cannon, and a quantity of ammunition, in all valued at 600,000 dols. The ship was under the British flag, bound for Charleston, and attempted to run the blockade.

ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE KING OF PRUSSIA.

An attempt to assassinate the King of Prussia was made at Baden-Baden on Monday morning. His Majesty, after his customary walk in the Lichtenthal Avenue, was seated near the stone fountain, when one Becker, a student of Leipsic, approached him, and levelling a pistol at his breast, pulled the trigger. The force of the charge happily caused the bullet to rise, and the ball only grazed the King's shoulder or neck. Arrested on the spot, the assassin was taken before the chief magistrate of the city, and was examined in the presence of his august Highness the Grand Duke of Baden.

Becker, who is only twenty-one years of age, does not belong to any political society. A paper was found upon his person, containing a declaration to the effect that he esteemed the King of Prussia personally, but did not consider him competent to deal with the German question. He declares that he has no accomplices.

The Crown Prince arrived at Baden from England on Monday night.

DEATH OF PRINCE ADAM CZARTORYSKI.

THE death of this venerable Polish patriot on Monday evening is announced by telegraph from Paris.

Prince Adam Czartoryski was born January 14, 1770. He took an active part in the affairs of his country as early as the period of Kosciusko's attempt to liberate her from Russian domination. After the partition of Poland in 1795 he and his brother were sent to St. Petersburg by command of Catherine II. as hostages. Here Alexander was so charmed with the noble and manly character of the young Pole that he became his intimate friend, and upon his accession to the throne appointed him Minister of Foreign Affairs, in which post Czartoryski conducted himself with so much prudence that the envy that was at first excited soon gave way. In 1805 he subscribed, in the name of Russia, the treaty with Great Britain. He then demanded his dismissal, but, nevertheless, accompanied Alexander in the campaign of 1807, having previously assisted at the battle of Austerlitz.

After the peace of Tilsit he retired almost entirely from public life, declaring that his connection with Russia was only to be referred to the person of the Emperor. When the war broke out in 1812, he was again by the side of Alexander, whom he accompanied to Paris in 1814.

In 1815 he was appointed Senator Palatine of the kingdom, and in 1817 married the Princess Anna Sapieha. He attended the first Diet, and spoke boldly in favour of a Constitution, but all his hopes were disappointed. In 1821 some students of the University of Wilna, of which he was Curator, were accused of revolutionary movements, and, in spite of his efforts, sixty of them were imprisoned without trial. Many of the sons of the first families were draughted as soldiers into the Russian regiments, and others were banished to Siberia and the military colonies. Czartoryski thereupon resigned his post. When the revolution of 1830 broke out, he devoted all his energies to the service of his country. He was appointed President of the Provisional Government, and summoned the Diet to meet on the 18th of December, 1830. On the 30th of January, 1831, he was placed at the head of the national Government, and offered half his property for the service of his country. After the terrible days of August 15 and 16 he resigned his post, but served as a common soldier in the corps of General Romarino during the last fruitless struggles. When all was lost he made his escape, and reached Paris, where he afterwards resided, busying himself for the benefit of his homeless countrymen. He was expressly excluded from the amnesty of 1831, and his estates in Poland were confiscated.

During the Polish insurrection of 1846 his Galician estates were put under sequestration by the Austrian Government, but this was removed in the spring of 1848. In March of that year he issued a proclamation urging the German representatives to unite with those of France to demand the restoration of Poland. In April, 1848, he enfranchised the peasants upon his estate of Siendaiwa, in Galicia, and gave them their possessions in fee.

MARRIAGE LAW IN FRANCE.—A legal question of considerable interest was, it will be remembered, raised some time back—whether a marriage made by a respectable woman with a liberated convict, in ignorance of his condition, is valid in law. The Civil Tribunal and the Imperial Court decided the question in the affirmative, but the Court of Cassation quashed the judgment, and sent the matter before the Imperial Court of Orleans. That Court, after hearing long arguments, has just decided that the marriage is valid, no error having been committed in the person of the husband, either civilly or legally.

INSTALLATION OF ABDUL AZIZ.

THE installation of the new Sultan took place on the 4th at the Sacred Mosque of Eyoub, with every accompaniment of barbaric splendour and parade. As nearly a quarter of a century has passed since this ceremony was last performed, the "pomp and circumstance" of the occasion may be worth describing.

The morning was calm and bright, the sky was without a cloud, and hardly a ripple played over the Marmora or the Horn. A tropical rain and thunderstorm had swept over the capital and the adjoining seaboard during the night, but by daylight the whole had cleared away, and an hour of the hot Asian sun had left hardly a trace of the torrent on housetop or street. According to Oriental usage, the members of the Corps Diplomatique take no part in Court or other official ceremonies; but on this occasion the custom was departed from, and invitations were issued to the Legations to "assist" in a large marquee pitched in front of the Adrianople gate, through which the Imperial procession was to pass on its way from Eyoub to the Old Seraglio. Half-past ten was the hour named; and accordingly, soon after that hour, a troop of large diplomatic caïques, each with its national flag hanging lazily over the prow, might be seen heading into the Horn, at the upper extremity of which Eyoub lies, nestled among cypresses. At the landing-place carriages were in attendance to convey the strangers to their tent, where a capital déjeuner had been prepared. An hour later the heavy guns of the three line-of-battle ships and frigate which have been moored off the Imperial Palace since the Sultan's accession announced that his Majesty had embarked; and, as the State caïque, gorgeous as the argosy of Cleopatra, preceded by two and followed by three other beautiful craft, shot down the broad current of the Bosphorus into the Horn, the land batteries of Tophana and the cannonades of the guard-brig thundered the tidings of the Imperial progress to the ships in the inner harbour. As the Imperial flotilla came into view these took up the salute, and, almost before the last echoes of their discharges had died away, his Majesty's caïque, impelled by twenty-six rowers, had reached the carpeted landing-place close by the scene of the day's ceremony. There he was met by the Grand Vizier, the Sheikh-ul-Islam, and all the chief Ministers of State, and by them conducted into the mosque.

The Imperial astrologer had ascertained that 12.54 p.m. would be the auspicious moment for entering the mausoleum of the Prophet's standard-bearer, within which the girding-on of the sacred sword is performed. At the prescribed minute his Majesty, attended by the Nakibi Eschref (a high member of the Ulema, who performed the ceremony as vicar of the Sheikh of Koniah, whose prescriptive privilege it is), the Sheikh-ul-Islam and the two principal Ministers entered the sacred tomb, and there, after further prayers, the sword of Othman was girt on his thirty-second successor. The august party then returned to the mosque, where prayers were again said, after which the Imperial cortège was formed, and proceeded on its seven miles' route to the Old Palace.

All that was brilliant in the civil and military service of the capital was marshalled for the occasion, the uniforms of the men and the caparisons of the horses surpassing in gorgeousness anything ever before witnessed. The Minister of Police and a squadron of mounted gendarmes opened the cavalcade, then followed a long double file of colonels, succeeded by majors-general, followed in their turn by civil officials of equivalent rank; to these succeeded lieutenants-general (Feriks), conspicuous amongst whom was Mushaver Pacha (Admiral Sir A. Slade), distinguishable by his ribbon and star of the Bath. Then came a bedizened troop of first-class civilians, closely followed by some twenty Mushirs (field marshals), almost covered from boot to fez-crown with golden embroidery. The sons-in-law of the late Sultan—a chap-fallen half-dozen—came next, and after them followed the chief members of the Ulema. These were succeeded by the ex-Grand Viziers, after whom immediately came the Ministers in order of their rank, the Sheikh-ul-Islam and the Grand Vizier being last. After these marched a double file of some sixty majors on foot, and then came the plumed and crimson-clad phalanx of baltajees—palace-guards, not unlike our own "beefeaters"—and in the centre, on a magnificent black Arab charger, the Sultan himself, dressed in the prescriptive dark cloak, and wearing in front of his fez the Imperial hama, or diamond aigrette and plume. Custom does not permit cheering on such occasions; but a loud welcome to the new Sovereign hummed through every part of the dense crowd, which, fully half a million strong, double-lined the whole route from Eyoub to the Seraglio, and at nearly every hundred yards his Majesty bowed his acknowledgments right and left. Immediately behind the Sultan rode the chief eunuch, and after this neutral dignitary an official of the Mint scattering small silver coins of the new Sovereign amongst the crowd. Entering the city by the Adrianople gate the Imperial cortège proceeded to the tomb of Mahomet II., the "Conqueror," where his Majesty dismounted and said a prayer. Thence the cavalcade proceeded to the mausoleum of Mahmoud II., the last and present Sultan's father, where prayers were again offered up. These over, his Majesty remounted, and proceeded without further stoppage to the Palace of the Old Seraglio.

Here invitations had collected nearly a thousand Turkish, Armenian, and other native ladies, and by the courtesy of one of these we are enabled to describe what took place within these male-forbidden precincts. Such a company, as may be supposed, required disciplinary attention; and effectively to supply this a couple of lady-police aided the attendant posse of eunuchs in maintaining order throughout the salons. Ices, sherbets, and other refreshments were provided in abundance, and after these had been freely discussed the most distinguished of the company were admitted to an audience of the Valide Sultana, and honoured with permission to kiss her slipper. Shortly after this ceremony had been gone through his Majesty arrived, and was received on the landing of the stairs by his mother, who accompanied him into the throne-room, where he kissed her hand, and had his forehead saluted in return. The four daughters of the late Sultan were then introduced from adjoining rooms, and were received by his Majesty standing. They kissed his boot, as did also his sister, the wife of the Capitan Pacha, who was next introduced. His own one wife then entered the room, and was met by the Sultan some steps from the throne; an affectionate pantomime ensued, after which the Sultana retired into her chamber. Several of the general crowd of ladies were next permitted to salute the Imperial boot, which over, his Majesty withdrew, conducting his mother by the hand. The thousand tongues were then unloosed, and such a scramble for yashmaks and feridjees took place in the adjoining "cloak-rooms" as an opera "crush" never equalled. The Sultan returned to Dolma-Bakhté by water, and with the last gun of the salutes, which announced his passage up the Palace, the day's celebration ended.

M. MIRE'S TRIAL.—M. Mire's trial ended on Thursday week, and he was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, as was his colleague, M. Solar Count Simon, who was declared civilly responsible for the losses of depositors in the Railway Bank; and M. de Chassepot, M. de Pontalba, and Count de Poret were acquitted. Nothing came out at the trial affecting the reputation of the persons round the Court with whose names rumour has been so busy, and the trial was chiefly remarkable for some shameful attempts to discredit the witnesses against M. Mire. Four persons, for example, testified one after another, that an expert whose evidence had gone heavily against M. Mire had announced himself to the Bank in this fashion:—"I am the expert, the venomous beast, charged to conceal all that is good and exaggerate all that is bad in M. Mire's affairs."

THE ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.—The *Travels Chronicle* says that "the directors of the Great Southern and Western Railway have received official notification from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland of the visit of her Majesty, and of her intention to proceed from Cork, on disembarkation from the Royal yacht Victoria and Albert, to Killarney, where she will remain for two or three days, the guest of Viscount Castlereagh and the Hon. H. Herbert, and then proceed to Dublin, via Malrow and the Limerick Junction. Her Majesty will at first be received to the Viceregal Lodge, and thence to the Castle, where she will join her Royal Highness the Prince of Wales."

A CONVICT STORY.

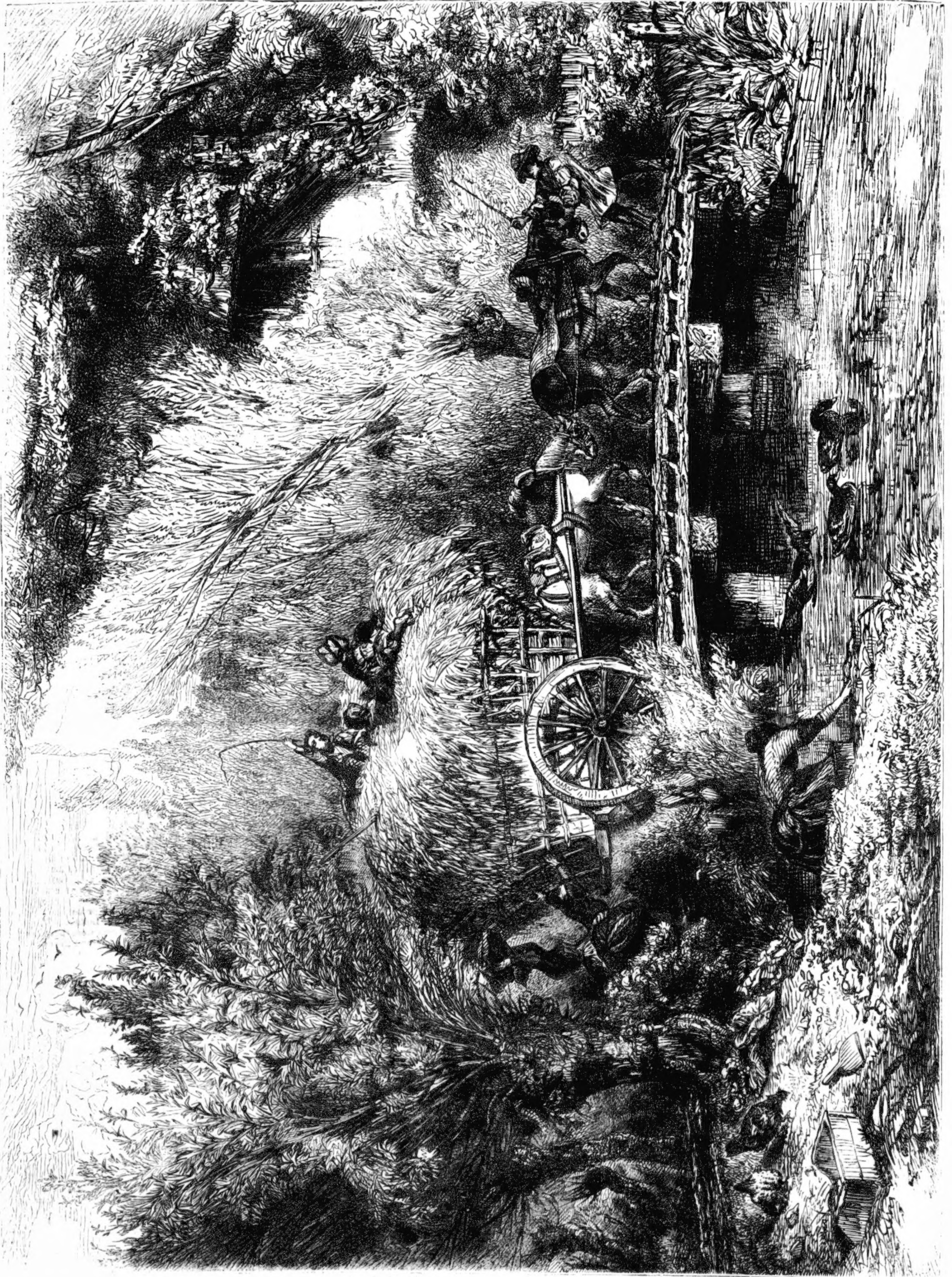
THE immense strength of Newgate, Dartmoor, and other new prisons, renders efforts to escape from them almost utterly hopeless. Not so, however, with Millbank Penitentiary, which, intended for a barrack, was built of brick, and was afterwards with difficulty converted into a prison, and, probably, now holds within its walls more desperate characters than could be found in the same circumference in any other part of the globe. The classification of these, therefore, is important to the warders, who soon see the men who are likely to endeavour to get away, and who at once take measures not only to frustrate their attempts, but also to capture them again if successful. Thus the haunt of every felon likely to break his bounds is as well known as the man himself.

On Sunday three convicts escaped. From the way in which it was effected it must have been an affair carried on for many weeks. Three men were confined in one of the basement cells, from which an iron ventilator in the wall communicated with a cellar beyond. At a quarter to nine the hammocks in the cells are let down, and by nine all the convicts are in bed, and an open grating in the door of each cell allows the sentry to see that every man is sleeping, while once or twice in each night the cells themselves are entered and examined. The first care, therefore, of the three convicts, for all three planned the escape, was to make a perfect dummy, with a regular nightcap, which was put in the hammock in the place of the one at work. The next move was to get out the bricks round the ventilator. This must have been a long operation, for their tools were bad and the wall very thick, and what was more, in order to enable the sentries to detect all attempts of the kind the bricks were whitewashed. But the convicts imitated this whitewash, and when they replaced the inner wall of bricks each morning made a composition to resemble mortar, and whitened it all over with the whitening they are supplied with for cleaning their tins, so that the most careful scrutiny in the day failed to detect the aperture. With such exquisite nicety was this done that even after the men were gone and every one was marvelling how they could have escaped the opening was not discovered. As soon as the cellar beyond was gained, the men only worked from one in the morning till about four. In this cellar was another ventilator leading out into the prison grounds, though still within the walls. The convict working at removing the bricks round this ventilator had a string fastened to his waist, the other end of which was held by his companions in the cell. Whenever they heard anything unusual, or thought the sentry was coming to enter the cells, they pulled the string, and the convict at work instantly returned through the narrow hole in the wall, replaced the ventilator and piece of brickwork, and was in his hammock again in a minute.

At last all was ready for getting through the walls. The three men, being employed during the day in making up soldiers' greatcoats for the Government, had contrived, little by little, to get together a great quantity of string, which they platted into a long rope-ladder and hid in the cellar. They also managed, though how no one knows, to get three of the soldiers' greatcoats there also, and Sunday night last was fixed for their attempt. The time chosen was between half-past eight and nine, when the men are sent to their cells for the night. After nine, sentries are posted all round the outer walls, so that the men knew they must be away before that hour, or not at all. They accordingly went to their cell, let down the hammocks, and two of them put in their dummies, with nightcaps on, under the clothes. But at this point the heart of the third, who had only a three years' sentence, failed him, and he refused to go. Of the other two one was a very desperate character, who had been transported before, and was then under sentence of fifteen years' penal servitude. The other, though not so bad, was bad enough, for he also was a returned transport, and was again convicted last autumn and sentenced to fifteen years. These two, therefore, were determined to risk everything to escape; and they accordingly got through the wall into the cellar, where they put on their soldiers' greatcoats. With the aid of their twine-ladder they quickly scaled the inner high prison wall, then the outer, and, running across the grass inclosure near Vauxhall-bridge, climbed the railings and ran away.

Just, however, as they cleared the railings a gentleman saw them and recognised their partly convict dress as they made off. He at once gave information at the gate of the prison. An alarm was sounded, the cells were searched, and dummies found in the hammocks of the two runaways. Instantly the case was put into the hands of four warders most skilful in tracing convicts. An examination of their previous notes about the men showed conclusively that there were two thieves' haunts to one of which they were certain to go, and, with this to guide them, they started in pursuit. Inquiries in the neighbourhood of the prison soon ascertained that the fugitives had taken a hansom cab, telling the driver to go as fast as he could, as their sister had met with an accident, and been taken to an hospital at the east end of the town. This direction quite corroborated the conjectures of the warders, and they accordingly started in a cab to the first of the two places the convicts were likely to make for. Here, distributing themselves, a series of observations and cautious inquiries were made, the general result of which soon convinced them that the fugitives were not there. Two warders, however, remained to lounge about and watch, while the other two proceeded to draw the next thieves' covert in the purlieus of St. Luke's. Ten minutes sufficed to convince the warders that the men were thereabouts. As, however, the neighbourhood was a very bad one, and the convicts were not likely to return for the asking, the warders got the assistance of four constables of the G division in plain clothes. With this accession to their strength and detective sagacity the track was quickly and cautiously followed up, and the runaways traced to a public-house. A few careless inquiries and a little lounging in and out, and the police felt certain that the men had been there, and that, though they were not there then, they had, nevertheless, not been seen to leave. This enigma was at once understood by the detectives. The convicts had been there, changed their clothes, and gone away without being recognised again, and this proved actually to be the case. With this slight clue to show them that they must no longer attempt to follow their track by their dress, another way was tried, and the fugitives' steps so closely followed that at last the detectives got positive information that both the convicts, very respectably dressed in their new clothes, would pass down Britannia-street at eleven o'clock. Here, accordingly, the six pursuers concealed themselves and waited. But eleven o'clock came, and five and ten minutes, and then a quarter past, but still no convicts. At last the warders and police issued out to try back upon the tracks, and, as they were in the act of turning the corner of Britannia-street, came full upon the two men, who, a little behind their time, were walking quickly, arm-in-arm, thinking of anything but their recapture. There was an instant recognition, and as instantly a desperate struggle, which taxed the strength and determination of the warders and police, for the men fought, kicked, and bit ferociously. One, indeed, was so near breaking loose that a policeman had to use his staff. As soon as they were fairly overpowered the men were brought up before an alarm could spread or a rescue be attempted, and before twelve o'clock both men were ironed and back in their cells at Millbank. Thus they made their escape at nine, before half-past nine the warders and detectives were in pursuit of them, an hour afterwards the police were on a certain track, and soon after eleven, in spite of all disguise, the men were retaken, and before midnight were restored to their prison again.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S MEETING.—Agricultural England has held its annual festival this week at Leeds. There was more than a mile and a half of sheds for implements stores, and a most successful accommodation for the animals. The show was in all respects excellent, especially of horses.



HAY HARVEST IN FRANCE.

THE FRENCH HAY HARVEST.

The haymaking season is associated not only with the interests of the farmer, who looks forward with no little anxiety to the time when the sweet-smelling crop shall be lifted and built into a noble stack, but it has also a very considerable place in the poetry, songs, and proverbs of nations. Indeed, it is a happy, sunny, merry time; and, unless the baptism of St. Swithin be so copious as to soak the ridges which have been spread to dry in the summer breeze, all those engaged in it—from the sunburnt urchins who bury each other in the biggest haycocks to the greyheaded labourer who sits blinking under the shadow of the cart where the big stone bottle lies—look upon it as a sort of festive labour, whose crown and glory is the mighty stack, compact and deftly thatched, which looks like another great gable added to the farmhouse, and remains a cheering assurance of food for the sleek cattle a whole winter through. In France as well as in England this haymaking time is a merry anniversary, and, as may be seen from our Engraving, it has not yet failed to attract those artists who have a real love for natural scenes and delight in country life.

So afraid are the French agriculturists of the terrible St. Swithin, that the old proverb says—

A la Saint Barnabé
La faux au foré—

St. Barnabas Day being early in June. There is great difficulty, however, in determining any precise date for the hay harvest, since the various kinds of field grass ripen at different times, and the farmer must by his own experience judge of the best time for preserving their nourishing properties in a dry state.

The nutritive property of the hay is, perhaps, best preserved by cutting it early (and in so far the proverb may have some weight), while of course the second crop will be more abundant; while the pasture after the first crop is carried is better and lasts longer.

Of hay-cutting machines there are several. That which gained the first prize at Vincennes, at the trial, was one of Wood's (New York) patent, made by M. Peltier, of Paris. It is true that the various inventions for cutting, tossing, and spreading the hay go very far to destroy the old picturesque jollity of the harvest-time; that the old lumbering waggon even holds association with some sympathies dearer to us than those evoked by the smart, well-built, light, painted dray; but we dare not stand in the way of science and invention even for the sake of a sentiment, or we shall be inevitably run over and left behind, crippled on the road.

THE PRINCE OF WALES IN IRELAND.

GRAND REVIEW AT THE CURRAGH.

An immense concourse of people assembled at the Curragh camp, on the 5th inst., to witness the first review by the Prince of Wales of the fine body of men encamped there. Everything favoured the display. The ground was in excellent condition, no rain having fallen for some days, and, when the regiments had all assembled, no finer sight could be conceived. The undulating ground afforded great facilities for witnessing the movements. The entire body of the troops at one period of the day were within the vision of every person present, so suitable is the camp for such an exhibition.

The number of soldiers at present located in the Curragh camp is stated to be little over 12,000; but, making allowances for those who could not be available for review duty, the number actually assembled on the field may be estimated at about 10,000. They included three regiments of Hussars, the 1st Dragoons, a field battery, a

company of Royal Engineers, a military train, the 1st battalion of Grenadier Guards, and six regiments of infantry. At half-past ten these were called out and commenced taking up their positions in columns, separated by quarter-distances, on the west flank of the Curragh. The cavalry was posted on the east side, and the infantry at the west, the column running nearly due north and south. The troops took up their position in the following order, reckoning from the east towards the west:—Royal Horse Artillery, under command of Colonel Phillpotts; 1st Dragoon Guards, Colonel Wardlaw; 14th Light Dragoons, Colonel Scudamore; 11th ditto, Colonel Fraser; 15th ditto, Colonel Fitzwigram; Field Battery, Colonel Nixon; Royal Engineers; Grenadier Guards, Colonel Bruce; 36th Foot, Colonel Hott; 15th Foot, Colonel Cole; 86th Foot, Colonel Stuart; 17th Foot, Colonel McKinstrey; 11th Foot, Colonel Moore; 96th Foot, Colonel Scovell; Rifle Brigade, Lord Alexander Russell.

The troops having been formed in the above order his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, accompanied by the Commander-in-Chief, Sir George Brown, and attended by the Hon. General Bruce and Lieutenant-Colonel Keppel, arrived at the point of review opposite the central flagstaff, shortly before eleven o'clock.

The Prince of Wales was received with the usual military salute, which he came forward and acknowledged. His Royal Highness, the Commander-in-Chief, and the military Staff, then rode round the entire column, minutely inspecting the cavalry, artillery, and infantry, the band of each regiment playing martial airs during their progress. As his Royal Highness cantered round the column he was loudly and enthusiastically cheered by the spectators. He rode a light bay charger, and was attired in the undress uniform of a Colonel

of the Staff, a blue frock coat, red sash, and cocked hat with white plume.

At eleven o'clock the review commenced, the infantry being divided into three brigades, and posted at the western flank. The first brigade, which consisted of the 1st battalion of Grenadier Guards and the 36th Regiment, was commanded by the Hon. Colonel Percy; the second brigade, including the 11th, 17th, and 86th Regiments, was under the command of Colonel Haliday; and the third brigade, commanded by Colonel Shirley, consisted of the 15th and 97th Foot and the Rifle Regiment. The artillery was under the command of Colonel Phillpotts, and the Rifle Brigade was commanded by Lord Alexander Russell. The entire body of infantry was commanded by Major-General Ridley, and the cavalry, owing to the illness of Major-General Parlbay, was under command of Colonel Wardlaw.

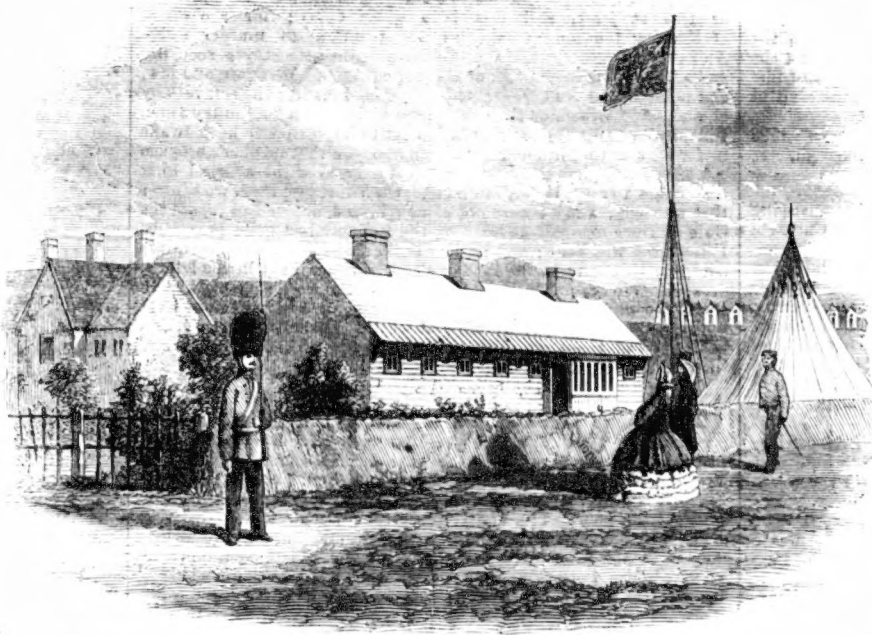
The manoeuvres represented a mimic attack upon a hostile force, consisting of a detachment of cavalry and infantry posted in the neighbourhood of the Kilcullen road, but which had hid themselves in a hollow where they were supposed to be unseen. Against this "enemy" the attacks of the troops under review were directed, and they kept up the charge until the hostile forces were supposed to be repulsed from the position which they had assumed.

The cavalry having deployed into line at the Kildare side of the Curragh, the infantry were moved forward in two lines towards the opposite side of the field, the artillery dividing into two sections, covered by sharpshooters from the Rifle Brigade. The main body of the Rifle Brigade then advanced in skirmishing order, after which the brigades of infantry advanced to the attack of the enemy, skirmishers being thrown out in every direction to discover the position. The firing commenced on approaching the Kilcullen road, the cavalry covering the guns of the artillery in the rear of the second line—one battalion of foot artillery being supported by Hussars on the extreme left. The firing now became general along the line of the infantry, extending from the right to the flag-station, the dragoons supporting the left. At this juncture a party of the 1st Royals, which had been sent in from Newbridge, joined the squadron in column. The infantry soon afterwards deployed to the left into line, and retired firing. During the retreat the guns of the Royal Horse Artillery, which were on the heights, protected the infantry, firing over their heads at the supposed enemy.

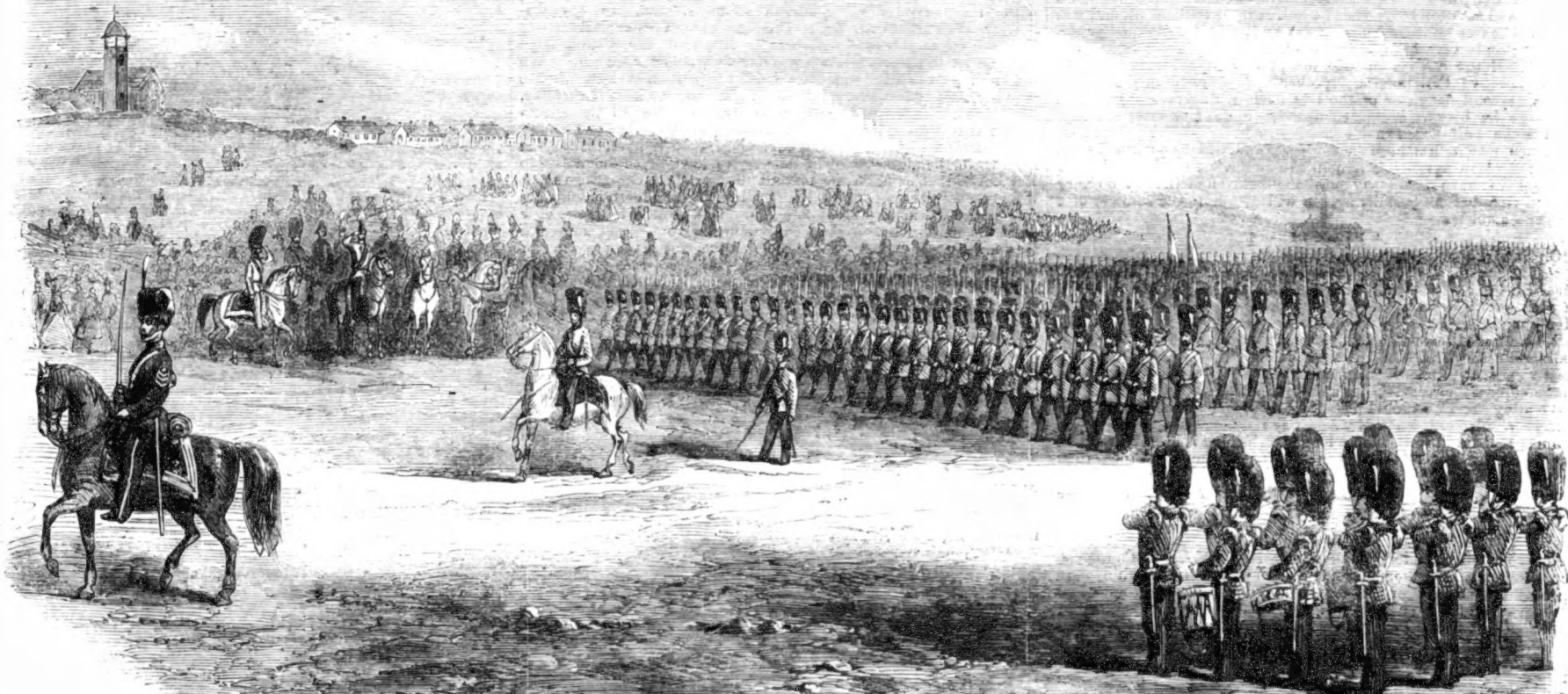
One of the most beautifully executed movements of the day consisted in the two brilliant charges of Light Cavalry. Previous to this onset, the 1st Royal Dragoons and 14th Light Dragoons had charged on the enemy, and instantly afterwards they were followed by a rapid and effective charge of the 11th and 15th Hussars, after which both lines of cavalry retired and re-formed again on the left of the body of infantry and artillery, the artillery still keeping up a sustained fire. The second line of cavalry again marched off in open column to the left, and formed one grand line, the Royal Dragoons and 14th Light Dragoons in front. The Prince, with General Brown and the whole of the staff, accompanied the line of cavalry through the several movements.

The second line of cavalry, being wheeled up to the right, covered the infantry. It consisted of the 11th and 15th Hussars, and, by charging across the front of the infantry, were supposed to be driving the enemy back. The first line of cavalry charged in front after the second line retired.

At this moment the scene was one of singular interest. The full power of the artillery was brought into play, and while the cavalry



THE PRINCE OF WALES IN IRELAND.—THE PRINCE'S QUARTERS AT THE CURRAGH CAMP.



THE REVIEW ON THE CURRAGH—THE GUARDS MARCHING PAST.

charged, retired, and re-charged at one point, the thunders of the artillery poured on the enemy, while the rank and file of the infantry kept up incessant volleys of firing with small arms. In the firing of the artillery at this moment two Armstrong guns were included. This, in effect, concluded the engagement. The enemy, being driven back on their supports, retired, firing, to the west, after which the regiments formed into columns by companies, and marched past the flagstaff to their quarters. As they passed the Commander-in-Chief and the Prince of Wales they saluted. The review terminated at about two o'clock.

Next evening his Royal Highness and Sir George Brown dined with the officers of the Guards at their quarters in the Curragh.

THE PRINCE'S QUARTERS.

The public will naturally be interested in the accompanying engraving of the quarters of the Prince of Wales at the Curragh. Great preparations were made for his reception; still, the best mansion the camp afforded was a hut, and nothing more. But the object of his visit has never been lost sight of for a moment; and, while the furniture is neat and the decorations elegant, there has been no attempt at finery or display; and the visitor does not fail to observe that the Heir Apparent, while engaged in the study of his military profession, is lodged with a perfect simplicity. So plain and unostentatious is the group of huts known as the Headquarters Block that the stranger would almost be at a loss to discover it without the friendly guidance of a carman or loitering soldier.

A few words will give an idea of the place. As the visitor arrives at the stand-house he sees the camp lying right before him at a distance of nearly two miles. Hundreds of huts cover the green hill with small black dots. In the centre stands a tower, which looks in the distance like a tall chimney, and the dusty road upon which he is walking winds like a white thread across the green turf. More than a mile away, upon the left, he sees a number of huts inclosed by a white railing, which reaches about half-way up the gentle slope on which the encampment is placed. This is the headquarters—the summer residence of the Commander-in-Chief, and now of the Prince of Wales. As the visitor approaches, the black dots gradually enlarge into brown buildings with black, pitched roofs, and separate into squares, with some show of regularity. He observes that the headquarters lies at the distance of some hundred yards from the main body of the camp, and in the centre of the block he will notice a small hut with a white canvas roof, fronted by a small but neat garden. This unpretending structure is the residence of the Prince.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 168

THE NEW SOLICITOR GENERAL.

MR. ROUNDSELL PALMER has entered the House and taken the oath and his seat as member for Richmond, in Yorkshire, vice Mr. Rich, who resigned: resigned specially to make way for Mr. Palmer. Richmond is one of the few boroughs left by the Reform Bill in which such arrangements as these can be safely made. It is practically, though not nominally, a pocket borough of the Earl Zetland. Whom he will he can elect, and whom he will he can eject. The population of this snug borough is about 5000. The registered electors number about 350. Since the Reform Bill there has been but one contest for the honour of representing Richmond, and that was in 1839, when an audacious person named Stapleton ventured to oppose Sir Lawrence Dundas, a member of the Zetland family, and was defeated by Sir Lawrence by 162 to 80. Mr. Roundsell Palmer was born in 1812, he is therefore forty-nine years old. He is the son of a clergyman, the Rev. William Joselyn Palmer, of Mixbury, Oxon; and his mother was the daughter of a clergyman—viz., the Rev. William Roundell, of Gledstone, Yorkshire. Perhaps this clerical origin accounts for the solemn, clerical look and voice of the hon. gentleman, and the High Church notions which he is known to hold. At Oxford Mr. Palmer achieved a very high position, for he was first class in classics, obtained the Chancellor's prizes for Latin verse and Latin essay, the Newdegate prize for English verse, Dean Ireland's scholarship, and the Eldon law scholarship. If Gladstone should go to South Lancashire, a large party of the graduates of Oxford will put a Mr. Roundsell Palmer as the successor of the Chancellor of the Exchequer against Sir Stafford Northcote, another first-class man. It will be strange if these two should stand in opposition, for politically there cannot be much difference between them. Mr. Roundsell Palmer, it is true, has joined a Liberal Government; but he describes himself as "a Liberal-Conservative," a description which the hon. Baronet has also assumed. Perhaps the contest will be upon ecclesiastical rather than political grounds; Palmer asking for the High Church votes, and Sir Stafford for the low. However, it is not yet determined that Gladstone will resign. It is a high honour to represent one's own University, and it remains to be seen whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer will throw it away. Mr. Palmer first came into the House as member for Plymouth, in 1847. In 1852 he did not stand, but in 1853, when Mr. Mare was unseated, he was again elected, and sat until 1857, when he retired from Parliament, and was out until he was returned the other day for Richmond. At the Bar Mr. Palmer stands very high, but he never made any great impression upon the House. He is an able man, no doubt, but he is certainly not an effective Parliamentary speaker. He married, in 1848, Lady Laura, second daughter of the late Earl Waldegrave, by which marriage he became connected nearly, or more or less remotely, with some half dozen noble families, and of course secured an influence which has been in the past, and will be in the future, very potent in advancing him in his career. Indeed, he is now thought to have got fairly into the ruck, and that at no very distant day, fortune permitting, he will attain to the summit of a lawyer's ambition.

A PROSY DEBATE.

On Thursday week we had our annual discussion upon education—the education of the people. The principal speakers were, as usual, Sir John Pakington, Mr. Henley, and Mr. Adderley; and, as usual, of course we had a very dull, dreary, prosy debate. Sir John, Mr. Henly, and Mr. Adderley are not very lively speakers on any subject, but on the topic of education their harangues are awfully prosy, dull, and dreary. Of the three we should say that Mr. Henley is the least wearisome, for now and then you may, if you listen, hear from him a shrewd and sensible remark in a small way. Next in the descending scale we should place Sir John, and at the bottom Mr. Adderley. Indeed, when Mr. Adderley rises, and if you see by his manner that he is bent upon a long speech there is nothing for you but departure out of the House; or, if you cannot do that, then through the Horn Gate into the land of dreams. One of these two things you must do, unless you have the patience of Job and the stern endurance of a martyr.

A REFUGE.

And remember, reader, you may sleep in the House of Commons. You must not read, nor talk, nor stand up, for all these things are contrary to standing orders for the regulation of the conduct of strangers; and if you should offend the watchful guardian placed at the end of the gallery will soon be down upon you; but you may sleep. Against sleeping there is no standing order, either for members or strangers. Indeed, a standing order against "sleeping" would be a piece of cruelty worthy of the Inquisition; for who can keep awake, we should like to know, under the influence of the soft, rippling, monotonous, soporific talk of Pakington, Henley, Adderley, and the like. The thing is impossible; and hence, no doubt, the House, whilst it will not allow us to read or talk, has left us this pleasant refuge of sleep. And never was this refuge so acceptable, so pleasant, so delightful, as it was on that Thursday night. Indeed,

there is nothing more jolly than a snooze in the House of Commons after dinner, when some quiet, long-winded, prosy speaker is on his legs; and nothing more easy. In the first place, the mind is released from all anxiety; you feel that you are safe for an hour or two at least, and this is a great thing; for the dead of sleeping too long is apt, as we all know, to murder sleep. And then there is certainly, as we have hinted, something soothing and somniferous in the talk of these gentlemen. It is soft, and low, and monotonous. There are no jerks in it. It is like the soft lullaby of a rippling stream or the gentle hum of bees in a hot, sultry June. Indeed, our experience is that it is next to impossible to keep awake under its soothing influence. It is an anodyne that no pharmacopoeia can excel—an opiate that would steep the senses of the weariest king that wears a crown in forgetfulness. On Thursday, then, we confess that we slept; and we were not alone; indeed, ere we had passed the Gate of Horn one-half at least of the audience had gone before us. Palmerston was gone; and if the Speaker was not, he was certainly half way through—in the land of sleepy reverie, if not in the land of dreams. We are not sure that even the clerks were wide awake. In short, the only persons whose wakefulness we could swear to were the reporters who were actually at work. The case of the reliefs behind, or of those attachés of the weekly press who only now and then take notes, is doubtful.

NOTHING LOST.

But, though absent from the body, we lost nothing; for it is the peculiarity of this annual debate that every year it is a mere repetition of that which we had the year before, somewhat varied in form, but in substance identically the same; and "the tottle of the whole" is this:—"We must by all means promote education amongst the poor. Yea, verily. But then we must take care that it be 'suitable.' We must spread the waters, but be careful that they be not deepened. The danger is lest, in educating the people, we overdo it. Pope said, 'A little knowledge is a dangerous thing,' but he was wrong. It is too much knowledge that is dangerous. It makes people discontented, restless, ambitious, which with poor people is bad, and, indeed, with people who are not poor. There should be a graduated scale," &c. John Stuart Mill and Mr. Buckle tell us that it is the glorious unrest, and discontent, and ambition of the English people that have made this England what it is; but such men as Pakington, and Henley, and Adderley do not read Mill and Buckle, and, if they did, would not believe the teaching of these philosophers. No; they stick to the old formula, and we note in the report of Henley's speech that he openly sneered at the idea that poor people should be taught political economy and sanitary principles. What do poor people want with such teaching as this? It is enough for them to learn to read their bibles and prayer-books and catechisms. "But must they not learn to write and cipher?" "Well, we suppose they must, though this is questionable; but, mind, nothing more than the four first rules of the ciphering art." And so they go on manning, very little in advance of what they were fifty years ago, when all education for the poor was held to be dangerous. And so let them go on; but the thing is out of their hands now. The waters are let loose, and they will work out their own channels. When these pundits unlocked the gate of knowledge they resigned their power. When they taught men to read they imagined that they could prescribe what men should read; and now, when they see that all their precautions are futile, their dismay is pitiable. The old hen who hatches a brood of ducks and sees them sail away upon the water is not in more pitiable case. And yet one cannot help admiring these fogies: they are such a fine study. But then they should dress in costume. Patent leather boots, surtouts, and pants of the latest cut, on men holding such views are a solecism. Henley's dress, it is true, is somewhat antique, but hardly in character. Hessian boots and a pigtail would be the regular thing for the man who talks about restricting the education of the poor.

A COACH! A COACH!

On Tuesday last we had a spurt of debate, which reminded us of old times. It was a discussion upon a petition. Debates upon petitions used to be common; but of late they have become almost obsolete—indeed, so unusual that when the debate arose Mr. Speaker was in a fix, knew not what to do with it, and had to be "coached" up to his duties. Mr. May, the Speaker's regular "coach," was, unfortunately, absent—gone to dinner, no doubt; and so Sir George Grey, Mr. Bouverie, and Mr. Massey had to take his post. For a time we had quite a little scene around Mr. Speaker's chair. However, after due searching and overhauling of "May's Practice of Parliament" and "Hatchell's Precedents," the mist dissipated, the road was cleared, and we got fairly under way.

O'MALLEY IRWIN VERSUS LEVER.

The petition in question was one from that singular character Mr. O'Malley Irwin, whom we have heard of before. The contents were some formidable accusation against Mr. John Orrell Lever, the member for Galway—to wit, that he, the said John Orrell Lever, had foisted a fictitious packet company upon the public, with imaginary ships, phantom captains, &c., to the dishonour of Parliament, &c. The presenter of the petition was the impetuous, chivalric member for Brighton, Mr. Coningham; the objector to its presentation was our old friend "Tear 'em." We need not go into all the squabbles which the petition evoked. Suffice it to say, that at last through the fog three positions were discernible. That the petition was strictly in order, so ruled all the authorities; that because it contained accusatory matter against a member was no reason why it should not be received, though, nevertheless, the member for Brighton ought in courtesy to have given due notice to Mr. Lever, that he might be present to answer the charges; that it would be better to withdraw the petition for the present, and, after said notice given, to present it again. This seemed to be the view of all the authorities. "Tear 'em," however, would not subscribe to this view. So indignant was he that he moved the rejection of the petition there and then, went to a division, and got beaten. Whereupon Mr. Coningham withdrew the petition, and the hubbub subsided. And now for two curious facts, and we will subside. Mr. Disraeli recommended the withdrawal of the petition, and in solemn phrase laid down the principle that the fact of a petition containing inculpatory matter against a member was not a reason for its rejection; but he voted for the rejection. Again, the charge against Mr. Coningham was that he had not given notice to Mr. Lever, but had presented this inimitable petition when Mr. Lever was "far away," and could have no opportunity to meet the charges. Well, all the while Mr. Lever was in the dining-room, supporting himself under the heavy blow as well as he might by the anodynes which are dispensed there.

EXTRADITION OF CRIMINALS.—A communication has been received from Sir George Lewis by the magistrates in the metropolis stating that instances having occurred in which police officers had thought fit to apply, upon their own responsibility, to her Majesty's Ministers and Consuls abroad for their assistance in obtaining the arrest or detention in a foreign country of persons charged with crimes committed in the United Kingdom, he (the Home Secretary) requested that it might be made known to the magistrates and police that whenever it is wished to procure the good offices of a diplomatic or consular agent abroad for such a purpose, application must be made in the first instance to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in order that he may communicate with the Foreign Office upon the subject, if in his judgment the case is one which calls for the interference of the Government. He added that no diplomatic or consular agent will in future pay any attention to applications by police officers or other persons without express directions from the Foreign Secretary. He also stated that the only countries between which and the United Kingdom treaties are now in force for the mutual surrender of criminals fugitive from justice are France and the United States of America. In all other countries the assistance of the authorities can only be asked for as a matter of courtesy between two friendly States.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JULY 12.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CONDITION OF TURKEY.

VISCOUNT STRATFORD DE REDCLIFFE moved that an humble address be presented to her Majesty for copies or extracts of any correspondence which has passed between the Foreign Department and her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople in the last and present years on the subject of financial or administrative reforms in Turkey, especially of such as were proclaimed in the late Sultan's Hatt-i-humayun of the year 1856, and more particularly since the accession of the reigning Sultan. The noble Lord dwelt at length on the attempts, more or less successful, to inaugurate reforms in Turkey of late years; and pressed the observance of the guarantee of her independence given by the great Powers of Europe.

LORD WODEHOUSE pointed out that the present moment was not the most opportune for a discussion on the reform of the Turkish empire, especially as the new Sultan had given proofs of his desire to inaugurate his reign by salutary reforms. Any advice that could be judiciously given by the British Government would be duly given.

After a few observations from the Earl of Hardwicke, the motion was agreed to.

The second reading of the Book-Union Bill was postponed for six months. Some other business was done, and the House then adjourned.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE IRREMOVABLE POOR BILL.

At the morning sitting the House took up the Irremovable Poor Bill at the point where the discussion of the 9th clause broke off on the previous Tuesday, but no progress was made before the sitting was suspended.

CHURCH RATES.

It was announced by Mr. S. ESCOURT, in reply to Sir C. Douglas, that Mr. Cross proposed to withdraw his Church-rates Bill.

COMMERCE WITH BELGIUM.

On the motion that the Speaker leave the chair that the House might go into Committee of Supply, Mr. W. FORSTER asked the cause of the delay of the Belgian Government in applying the new tariff arrangements between France and Belgium to this country, pointing out the injury which this country suffered from the delay, and from the preference shown to France.

LORD J. RUSSELL said that early in the year the Belgian Government stated that they were negotiating a treaty with France, and that whatever terms were granted to France would be granted to this country. After the treaty with France was concluded, application for the fulfilment of that promise by the Government was made, and an answer was received that, as the end of the Session of the Belgian Legislature was near, nothing could be done. He must say that this was somewhat bad treatment after the statements which had been made on the subject.

DENMARK, SCHLESWIG, AND HOLSTEIN.

A discussion was then raised by Sir H. VERNER upon the affairs of Schleswig and Holstein of 1860 and 1861, which elicited a statement from Lord J. RUSSELL to the effect that propositions were likely to be made on the part of the King of Denmark which might probably lead to negotiations, and he trusted that these would end in a satisfactory solution of the question in dispute.

DANISH CLAIMS.

MR. MACAULAY called attention to the several addresses to the Crown by the House and the Treasury minutes issued thereon empowering the commissioners for Danish claims to receive, examine, and judicially determine the claims of certain British subjects for losses arising out of the confiscation by the Danish Government of ships and cargoes in the year 1807; and to the fact that after such losses had, in pursuance of her Majesty's commands, been judicially determined, and the Commissioners' adjudication and report thereon had been presented to the House, the House of Commons, by an address, on June 10, 1841, prayed her Majesty to advance to the claimants the amount of the losses so adjudged, with the assurance that the House would make good the same, to which address her Majesty returned a favourable answer, but that nevertheless such claims remain unliquidated. These claims arose out of the confiscations caused by an embargo laid by the Danish Government on British ships at the time when the fleet and army of this country were about to attack Copenhagen. An embargo was then laid on Danish ships in British harbours, which were confiscated and the proceeds paid into the British Treasury, whereon the persons who had lost their property in Denmark maintained that that money should have formed a fund for reimbursing them their losses. The parties interested had constantly made application to the British Government for compensation, but had never succeeded in obtaining it, notwithstanding the frequent decision of the House in their favour.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL contended that after an interval of fifty-seven years it was unreasonable to expect that the House of Commons would take up the question, more especially as it had repeatedly been inquired into on former occasions with results unfavourable to the claimants.

MR. LOCKE supported the view taken by Mr. Macaulay, which was opposed by the CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, on the ground that no injustice had been done, and that all power of trading property rights had ceased long ago.

The subject then dropped.

THE UNIVERSITIES ELECTION BILL.

On the motion for the third reading of the University Elections Bill, THE CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER stated his objections to the Bill, which, he said, would introduce a strange and startling innovation in our electoral law. It was no longer a bill to enable non-resident voters to vote by means of voting papers (a principle to which he was not friendly), but it was a measure to authorise all electors, resident or non-resident, to depute to proxies, who are to be the bearers of an authority to vote or not, just as they please.

MR. DODSON supported the bill, and argued that the very essence of a proxy was that the person holding it should represent the views of the person giving it.

MR. HUNT supported, and Lord Palmerston briefly opposed, the bill.

MR. CONINGHAM moved that it be recommitted; but the motion was, on a division, negatived by 165 to 80.

The bill was then read a third time and passed.

The remaining orders were disposed of, and the House adjourned.

MONDAY, JULY 15.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

JUSTICE IN INDIA.

THE EARL of ELLENBOROUGH presented a petition from India on the subject of judicial administration, praying, among other things, that Europeans might in all criminal cases be tried only by European judges and juries, and he expressed at some length his acquiescence in that prayer.

TREASURY-TROVE.

LORD TALBOT DE MALAHIDE called attention to the present state of the law relating to treasure-trove, and moved for any papers on the subject which might be in the possession of the Government.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR said that it would be difficult to legislate on this subject, because numerous grants of the right of treasure-trove to lords of manors and others by the Crown involved the necessity of compensation.

THE DUKE of ARGYLL said that the present state of the law led to the loss of a great number of valuable relics of antiquity, which were constantly being sent to the melting-pot, because the finders, who would have given them up to their landlords, were inclined to conceal them when they knew they would go to the Crown.

The motion was agreed to.

THE IRISH LAW COURTS.

LORD CLANRICARDE, on moving that an humble address be presented to her Majesty to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into the constitution, establishment, practice, procedure, and fees of the superior courts of common law in Ireland, and the differences between the constitution and the forms of practice, procedure, and fees of the Courts of Chancery of England and of Ireland, complained that the result of not extending the reform of the practice and procedure of the English courts to Ireland had led to a great waste of money and time to the suitors in Ireland, and to an extravagant expenditure for the judicial establishment—a position which he proved by quoting a variety of statistics.

LORDS WENDELDAY, GRANVILLE, and BROUGHAM, thinking that a clear case had been made out for inquiry, the motion, slightly modified, was agreed to.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

LORD STRATHFORD moved—"That, in the opinion of the House, it is desirable without delay to restore the consular authority of Great Britain at Mozambique, in order to assist the Government of Portugal in repressing the slave trade on the eastern coast of Africa."

LORD WODEHOUSE gave instances to show that the Government was not indifferent to the subject of the suppression of the slave trade, but contended that the appointment of a Consul at Mozambique ought to be left to the discretion of the Executive.

After some observations from Lord Brougham and the Bishop of Oxford, the motion was withdrawn.

THE TURNER COLLECTION.

On the motion of Earl GRANVILLE, a Select Committee was appointed to consider the proper measures to be taken respecting the gifts and bequests of pictures of Turner and Vernon, and any further gifts of the same kind.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL WINDHAM.

In answer to Mr. CONINGHAM, who asked upon what principle General Windham had been appointed to the colonelcy of a regiment, and what military exploits he had performed to justify such an appointment, Mr. T. G. BARKING said that General Windham stood next in the list of Major-Generals for a regiment, and was recommended by the Commander-in-Chief to the Secretary for War. In answer to the second part of the question, he would state how Major-General Windham held his present rank. He was promoted to that rank for his services at the Redan before Sebastopol. Since that officer had been in India General Windham had done his duty to the satisfaction of his commanding officers. He (Mr. Barking) protested against the constant bringing forward, not of the principle on which these appointments were made, but of insinuations against individual officers.

BRITISH SUBJECTS IN AMERICA.

On the order for going into Committee of Supply, Mr. T. DUNCOMBE, advertising to the treatment of British subjects in the Secession States of America, who, he thought, had not been sufficiently protected by our Consuls, asked if any fresh complaints on the subject had been received.

Lord J. RUSSELL replied in the negative, but promised to make inquiries.

EDUCATION IN IRELAND.

Mr. BUTT moved that, in the opinion of the House, it is inexpedient, in distributing the grant for the purposes of Irish education, to enforce the rule of refusing aid to all schools in which religious teaching is made a part of the general instruction of the school.

Mr. LEFFROY argued at length against the system of religious teaching on the system of national education in Ireland, and urged the claim of the Church Education Association to participate in the Parliamentary grant.

Mr. MACFARLANE argued against the mixed system of education, contending that as a national system it had failed in Ireland.

Mr. CARDWELL urged that the arguments which had been adduced by Mr. Leffroy went to the establishment of a denominational system; and that was one which could not be admitted by Parliament. He (Mr. Cardwell) denied that the present system was a merely secular one; but it was a common system, in which children of all denominations could join in general instruction, while religious instruction in the tenets of every denomination was afforded as a separate part of the system, and this, he contended, whatever might be said to the contrary, had been a complete success.

Sir H. CAIRNS denied the universality of the adhesion of the different religious denominations in Ireland to the national system of education which had been stated to exist by Mr. Cardwell, pointing out that changes which had taken place in the arrangements, and which were deviations from the original principle on which it was founded, had materially altered the feeling of good-will which many persons had hitherto felt towards it.

Mr. M. O'NEILL entered into a history of the establishment of the system of national education, in order to show that it was founded in order to afford popular instruction without any tinge of proselytism. But he contended that there had been so much swerving from the original principle that he, one of its warmest supporters, had been reluctantly compelled to withdraw his confidence from it.

Lord J. RUSSELL said that he admitted, as regarded England, that it was advantageous that religious instruction should be combined with general education in all schools which were partly assisted by Parliamentary grants. Upon a division, the resolution was negatived by 36 to 6.

SUPPLY.

The House then went into Committee of Supply, and resumed the discussion of the Estimate for Public Education in Ireland, amounting to £285,376, which was ultimately agreed to.

Mr. PEARCE, in moving a vote of £155,000 for the redemption of the State Toll, stated the foundation of the claim of Hanover to this toll, which England had contracted to pay for a limited period, under the treaty of 1844, that treaty having been terminated by notice. The amount received by Hanover from the toll was £30,000 a year, which annual payment capitalised, at 1½ per cent, amounted to £465,000; and the proportion to be paid by England for its redemption was one-third, or £155,000. The vote was agreed to, after a few words by Mr. A. Smith.

The Committee then resumed the discussion of the remaining Civil Service Estimates, and the resolutions were ordered to be reported.

OFFENCES AGAINST THE PERSON.

On the consideration of the Offences Against the Person Bill, Mr. HENLEY moved that in clause 4 the word "felony" be omitted, and "misdemeanour" inserted, the effect of which would reduce conspiracy to murder to the lesser offence.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL opposed the amendment. The objection to the character of the offence was founded by Mr. Henley on the supposed power which the police would have in acting against foreigners or others; but it implied something like a conspiracy between the British and foreign Government in order to carry out Mr. Henley's idea.

After a discussion, in which Mr. Walspole and Mr. Ayrton supported the amendment, Sir G. C. LEWIS assented to it, and it was agreed to.

Lord RAYNHAM moved to increase the punishment for aggravated assaults upon women and children. The amendment was opposed by the Attorney-General, and negatived.

The bill was ordered to be read a third time.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

On the report upon the Municipal Corporations Act Amendment (No. 2) Bill, some discussion arose as to the expediency of giving the Mayor the right to take precedence at meetings of borough magistrates, and to fill the chair *ex officio*.

The Report was ultimately agreed to, with a few amendments.

TUESDAY, JULY 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE INDIA COUNCIL.

On going into Committee on the East India Council Bill, The Marquis of CLANRICARDE asked for the production of copies of all reports, minutes, or other record of opinions of members of the Indian Council, or committees of that council, relating to the bills concerning India now before the House.

Earl DE GREY and RUSSELL expressed his opinion that the documents asked for were not such as ought to be produced, and declined to do so.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH stated his opinion that all matters relating to Indian administration should be made public, as the government of that country should as much as possible be founded on representation.

The House then went into Committee on the bill, and several of the clauses having been discussed, the bill passed through Committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

IRREMOVABLE POOR BILL.

At a morning sitting, the Irremovable Poor Bill was again discussed in Committee, and the remaining clauses agreed to.

The Removal of Scotch and Irish Poor Bill also passed through Committee.

THE GALWAY CONTRACT.

At the evening sitting, Mr. CONINGHAM presented a petition from Mr. O'Malley Irwin, making certain charges against the projectors of the Atlantic Mail Steam Navigation Company.

Mr. ROXBURGH objected to its reception as being libellous.

The SPEAKER held that, in order to decide whether it was open to that objection, it must first be read at length by the clerk at the table, which was done.

Mr. ROXBURGH moved that it be not received, contending that it was an accusation of malice on the part of an individual.

Mr. BOUVERIE said that Mr. Coningham ought to have given notice to the member (Mr. Lever) whose name had been introduced into the petition before he presented it. He thought the House was bound to receive the petition, and then to ascertain whether the accusations against the member were well founded, and if they were found not to be so, it was for the House to consider whether the member who was the instrument of bringing such charges forward ought not to be censured.

Sir J. THORNTON suggested the withdrawal of the petition until the Galway Contract Committee had made their report.

Lord DUNKELIN, on the part of Mr. Lever, undertook to say that he would not shrink from any inquiry into this matter. He supported the motion for rejecting the petition.

Sir G. GREY thought that notice ought to have been given to Mr. Lever, and urged the withdrawal of the petition and its presentation on a future day. He did not think that a petition should be rejected solely on the ground of its being libellous.

Mr. DISRAELI said that the reception of petitions by the House was not a matter of right, but he did not think that libellous matter was a ground for rejecting a petition. The present petition had been presented some time after the subject-matter to which it referred had been discussed by the House, and at this period of the Session there could be no opportunity for inquiring into its charges. He also suggested its withdrawal.

Mr. GRAYSON said that Mr. Irwin applied to be examined before the Galway Committee with a view to making certain allegations; and the Committee, not thinking it within their duty, declined to hear that gentleman. He was of opinion that the House should strongly mark their sense of the conduct of Mr. Coningham in presenting a petition of this nature.

Mr. T. DUNCOMBE said it was the duty of the House to see that the precious privilege of petitioning was not abused; and if this petition was to be received the House would be constituting itself a grand jury to deal with alleged

charges against a member. Some notice of it should have been given. It ought to be rejected.

Lord PALMERSTON could not admit that a petition containing libellous charges on a member of the House should not be received. He did not know that a member was bound to present any petition that was sent to him; and it was the duty of any member to inquire into the subject-matter of any petition given to him for presentation, and if it contained charges against any other member, having satisfied himself that he ought to present it, he ought to give notice of his intention to the member implicated. Mr. Coningham did not appear to have done either, and he would do well to withdraw the petition, and if, on inquiry, he thought that the matter should be proceeded with, he should give notice to Mr. Lever, and have the question properly discussed.

Mr. CONINGHAM consented to withdraw the petition, although he was of opinion that there was a *prima facie* case to justify its presentation.

After some further discussion, on a division, the amendment that the petition be rejected was rejected by 84 to 75.

Mr. CONINGHAM again expressed his wish to withdraw the petition, and it was withdrawn accordingly.

THE CASE OF COLONEL HENRY.

Colonel NORTH moved an address praying the grant of a pension of a Major in place of that of a Captain to Lieutenant-Colonel Henry, Royal Artillery, who lost his arm when in command of an important battery before Sebastopol, he holding at the time the rank of Brevet Major, which rank had been conferred upon him for distinguished conduct in the field, and to assure her Majesty that the House would make good the same.

Lord PALMERSTON hoped the House would not, by acceding to the motion, make an attempt to take the administrative department of the Army into its hands.

On a division the motion was rejected by 63 to 31.

SUPPLY.—THE FINE ARTS.—COLONIAL ESTIMATES.

The House then went into a Committee of Supply on the remaining Civil Service Estimates.

The vote for the National Gallery was discussed at much length, with reference to various topics connected with it—the proper site for a National Gallery; the alterations made in the building in Trafalgar-square; the resources for the enlargement of the space for the reception of pictures; the Vernon and Turner collections; the removal of the Royal Academy, &c. The vote was agreed to.

The next vote, of £2000 for the Portrait Gallery, was objected to by Mr. SPOONER, who thought that too much was spent upon pictures and the promotion of art, and moved that this vote should be disallowed. He did not propose to divide the Committee on the motion, but only to protest, he said, against the continuance of such tomfoolery.

Several members complained that the collection was not properly exhibited.

This vote and other votes having been agreed to, after discussion upon the Colonial Estimates.

Mr. ADDERLEY called attention to the large portion of this expenditure which, in his opinion, might be advantageously discontinued. He considered this expenditure anomalous and mischievous, throwing a burden upon the resources of this country in relief of the taxation of the colonies for purposes of their own.

Mr. C. FORSTER replied very briefly to Mr. Adderley, pointing out the difficulty of establishing by any exact rule a distinction between imperial and colonial objects, especially in military expenditure, many of the charges were temporary and expiring.

The votes agreed to were ordered to be reported.

The Offences against the Person Bill, and other bills, were read a third time and passed.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MINES.

Mr. H. SHERIDAN moved the second reading of the Mines Trespasses Prevention Bill. Its object, he said, was to obviate evils and wrongs in underground operations for which the existing law did not afford an effectual remedy.

Mr. PAULI opposed the second reading.

Mr. CLIVE recommended that the bill should be withdrawn, and this suggestion was adopted.

OATHS.

The adjourned debate on going into Committee upon the Criminal Proceedings Oath Relief Bill, and the amendment to defer the Committee for three months, was then resumed.

Mr. DENMAN supported the bill, arguing that there was no reason why what was the law in civil cases should not be the law in criminal proceedings; on the contrary, there was the stronger reason for giving relief to witnesses in prosecutions for crimes.

The amendment was negatived, and the House went into Committee upon the bill, in consequence of which adjourned to.

ABOLITION BUSINESS.

The Irremovable Poor Bill was read a third time and passed.

The House then went into Committee upon the Metropolitan Local Management Act Amendment Bill, the clauses of which were passed (except the 72nd, which was negatived), as well as certain new clauses, after a long discussion.

The report of the Committee of Supply was brought up and agreed to.

The Turnpike Acts Continuance Bill and the Public Works and Harbours Bill were read a third time and passed.

The Leases, &c., by Incumbents Restriction Bill passed the Committee.

THURSDAY, JULY 18.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

EAST INDIA (HIGH COURTS OF JUDICATURE) BILL.

Earl DE GREY and RUSSELL moved the second reading of this bill, the main object of which was to amalgamate the Supreme Court and the Sudder Court of India, and to place those tribunals upon such a footing as would entitle their supervision all over India, and secure the ends of justice.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH found fault with the proposed arrangements, and recommended that the bill be referred to a Select Committee composed of men fully acquainted with the civil and criminal law of India.

After some discussion the bill was read a second time.

The East India Civil Service Bill was also read a second time.

The Chatham Dockyard Enlargement Bill and the London Coal and Wine Dues Continuance Bill were read a third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House met at twelve o'clock, and went into Committee of Supply on the Civil Service Estimates. Several of the items in the vote for Consuls abroad underwent considerable discussion, in the course of which it was suggested that the Consular service, especially in Germany, should be subjected to a thorough revision, with a view to the reduction of expenditure.

Lord J. RUSSELL stated that certain of the consulates in Germany would cease altogether on the death of the present occupants. Referring to the Embassy in China, he announced that he had received by the last mail accounts from Mr. Bruce of a most satisfactory character; that our Mission at Peking was received and treated without the strangeness which characterised the earlier communications with the native authorities, and that there was every prospect of establishing commercial relations with China on a better footing than they had ever hitherto been placed.

THE TRADE MARKS BILL.

At the evening sitting the order for committing the Trade Marks Bill was discharged and the measure withdrawn.

BANKRUPTCY AND INSOLVENCY BILL.

On the order of the day for considering the Lords' amendments on the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Bill,

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL entered into a lengthened statement for the purpose of showing that those amendments were of an unobjectionable character and calculated to impair the efficiency of the bill. He concluded by moving that the House of Commons do not agree to the amendments made in the measure by the House of Lords having reference to the appointment of a chief judge and to the creditors' assignee.

Mr. BOVILL supported the Lords' amendments, and considered that the appointment of a Chief Judge was wholly unnecessary, and would only entail a useless expense on the country.

The further discussion of the question occupied the remainder of the evening.

THE FRENCH IN THE EAST.—The French journals exult greatly over the success of their arms in Annam. The Viceroy of Cambodia, it is said, has submitted, and the province may therefore be considered French. The invaders expect to have full possession of Annam in two years. The King still holds out, threatens any subject with death who holds intercourse with the French, and has executed his commander-in-chief. The French are badly served in Annam, or do not understand the East. The moment they are in possession of Hue they can depose the King and make any treaty they please with his son, or brother, or other natural enemy, including any concessions to themselves they like. Till then they are merely throwing away power in an effort to retain an outlying province with troops who are thinned daily by disease. The troops from China, we perceive, are coming home, so that France will soon have no expeditious allies except in Cambodia and at Rome.

THE IRISH CENSUS.

THE abstracts of the Census of Ireland for 1861 have just been issued. The total population of Ireland on the 7th of April was 5,764,543, less by 787,842 than it was in 1851, which is a decrease of 12.02 per cent on the last decennial period. On the previous decade there was a decrease of 19.85 per cent. The diminution has been greatest in Munster, where it is 18 per cent, and least in Ulster, where it is only 5 per cent. The commissioners ascribe the decrease to emigration, as there has been no other powerful cause in operation, such as famine, pestilence, or war. From the report of the Emigration Commissioners it appears that 1,230,986 emigrants left Ireland during the last ten years; and from the returns obtained by the Registrar-General of Ireland it is found that of these 1,174,179 were set down as "permanent emigrants." We have, unfortunately, no registration of births and deaths, and we cannot tell what efforts nature has made to fill up the void created by the famine.

The portion of the returns expected with most anxiety is that which relates to the religious denominations, of which we have had no return since 1834. The following are the results:—Roman Catholics, 4,490,583; members of the Established Church, 678,681; Presbyterians, 598,992; all other persuasions, 8414; Jews, 322. The total number of Protestants in Ireland is 1,273,960, giving the Roman Catholics a majority of 3,216,623.

The Dublin *Morning News* is almost in hysterics of joy about these figures, pointing in triumph to the majority of Roman Catholics in the old strongholds of Protestantism. For instance, in "Protestant Ulster" there is a Roman Catholic majority of 16,066, and in Derry of 3415. In Enniskillen, Dungannon, and Bandon they have also a majority.

During the generation that has passed since the special Census of 1834 the population of Ireland has diminished by 2,190,217—the Roman Catholic population by 1,945,447; the Church of England population (including the Methodists) by 129,967; the Presbyterians by 114,663. The other Protestant denominations have been diminished about one-half.

THE BUILDERS' STRIKE.

SOME gentlemen—at once capable and impartial—who have taken the trouble to investigate the question at issue between the master builders and their men, say they have convinced themselves of the following facts:—

In the first place, the present movement on behalf of the men is not for what is termed "the nine-hour system." The demand of the masters (the only trade generally on strike) is simply for ten hours' work for the first five days of the week and for a half holiday after five and a half hours' work on Saturday. In the next place, there is little or no question of money in dispute. The masters offer a rate of payment per hour which will give for 56½ hours per week the same wages (33s.) which the men demand for 55½ hours. The real question is whether a change shall be made from the old system of hiring by the day to the system proposed by the masters of hiring by the hour. It has been attempted to be shown on behalf of the masters that this change will not injure the men, will leave wages as they were, and will only allow to each man freedom to work as many or as few hours as he pleases. Against this the men allege:

1. That the change will lead to the extension of the hours of labour, and make any future reduction of them impossible.

2. The change will produce actual money loss to the men, and money gain to the masters by the abolition of "overtime." Under the practice of overtime for every hour worked beyond the day's work of ten hours the men claimed "time and a half"; that is, the usual rate plus 50 per cent. It had two objects. First, and principally, to operate as a prohibitive tariff to the master and a protection to the men against overwork. Secondly, if extra work was unavoidable, to compensate the workmen for the greater expenditure of vital energy which the prolongation of his labour necessitated, and for the sacrifice of a portion of that leisure which becomes more valuable to him the less of it he has left. Under the hour system both of these advantages vanish.

3. That the change will take away or jeopardise other of their privileges under the day system which have been the subject of long struggles. The men had the right (not indeed always enforced) to a day's pay or dismissal after three or four hours' work. The carpenter who had a customary allowance of a fraction of a day at the close of a job, for sharpening his tools.

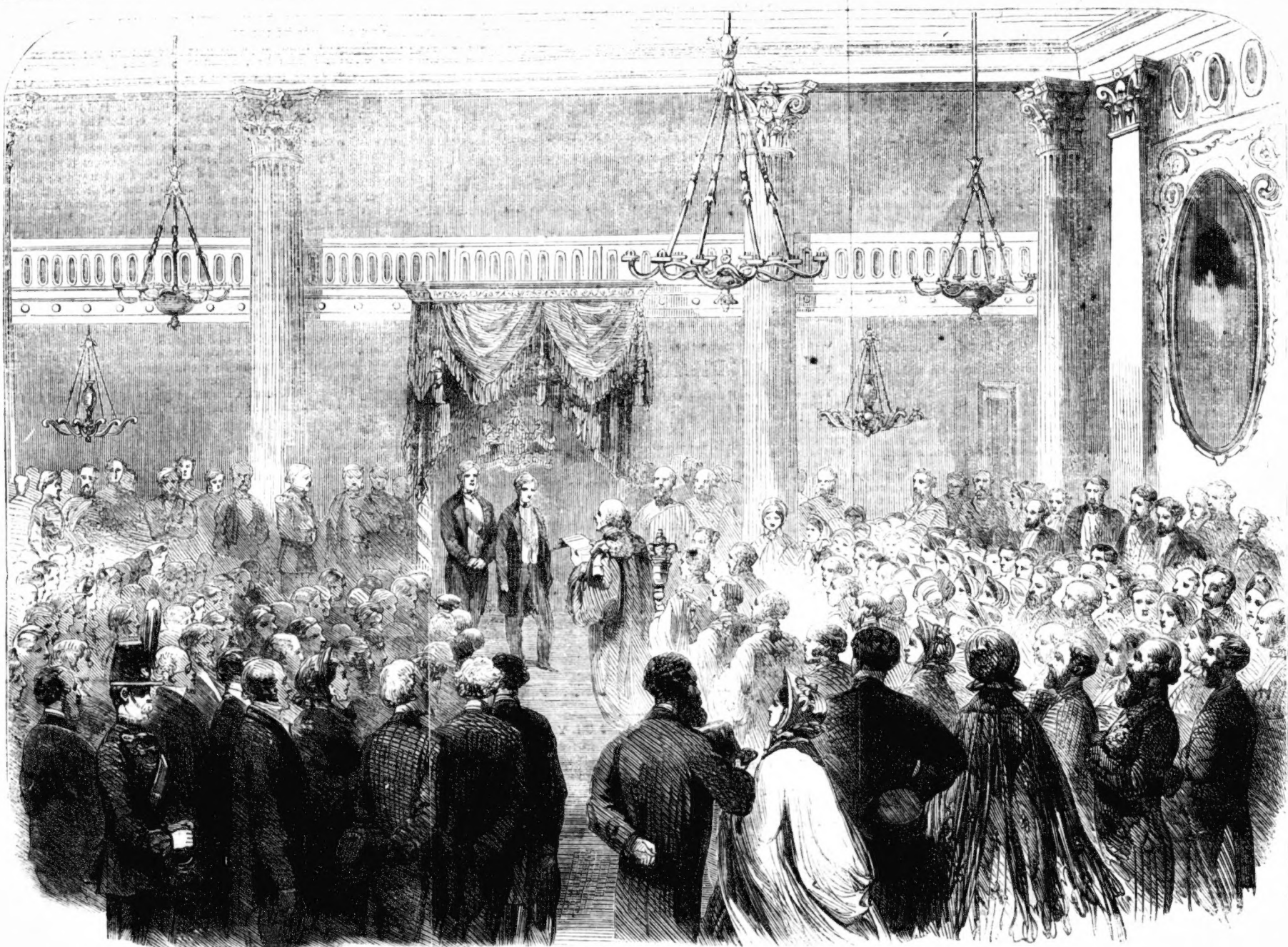
Generally, with justice or not, the hour system is felt by the men as a limitation, reducing them to the level of dock labourers. A. all sorts, it clearly tends to shackle still further the free, already very loose, which binds the employer and the employed together.

The statements of the men appear thus to show that they have good reason to apprehend loss from the adoption of the hour system. We may add that they have offered to refer the matter to arbitration, which the masters decline to do, and that they allege themselves ready to accept payment by the hour if ten hours are, as before, recognised as a day's work, with all the old privileges.

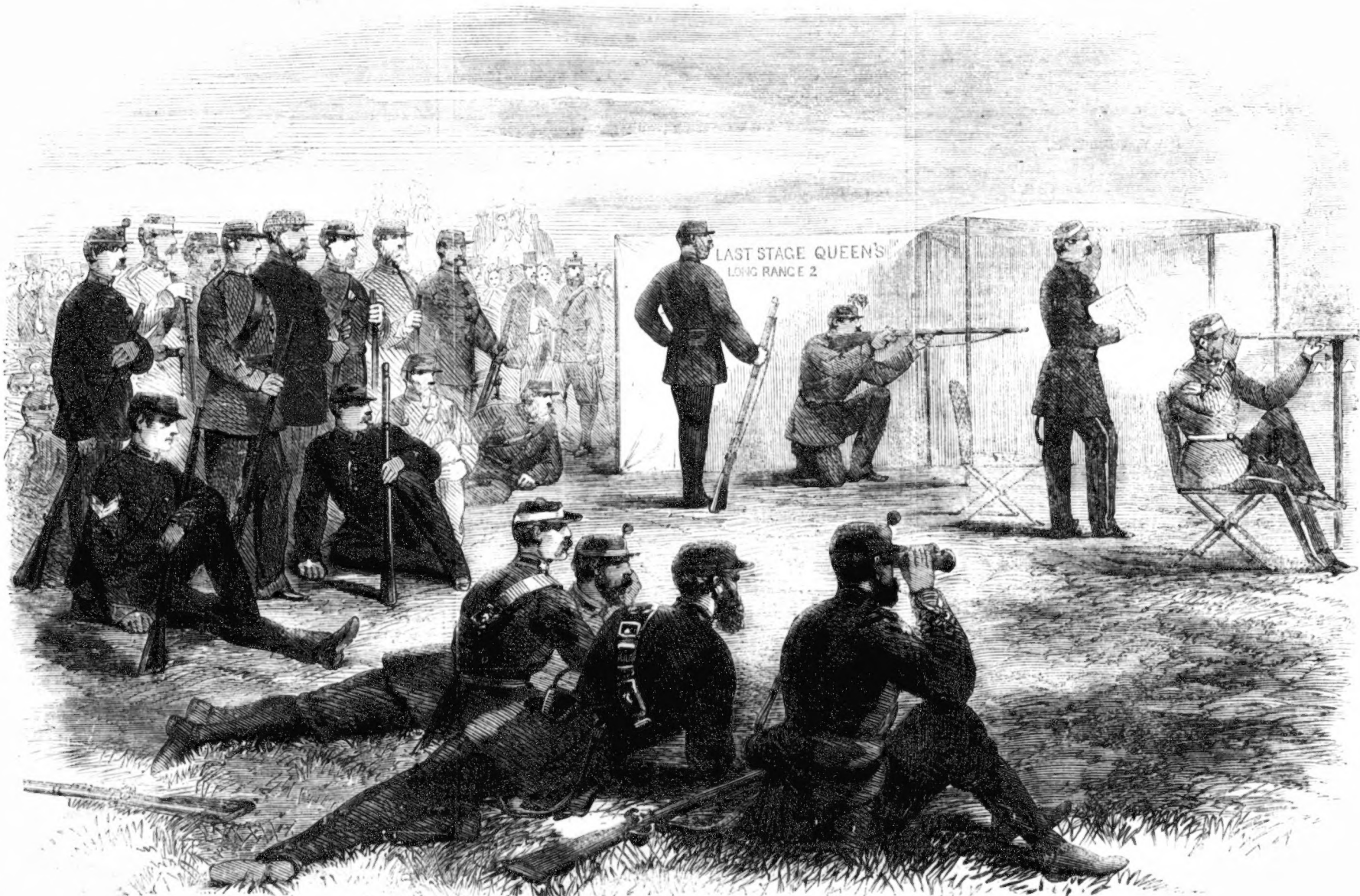
A "CHRISTIAN DRAMA."—Something like an approximation to the medieval mysteries was effected on Monday night by the performance of a sacred drama, in the presence of Cardinal Wiseman, whose tale "Fabiola" furnished the substance of the plot. The room in the Whitlington Club-house, where the performance took place, was crowded to such an extent that the martyrdom of the primitive Christians represented on the stage was almost rivalled by the sufferings of the modern devotees, who perspired at every pore. The play was somewhat of the heavy set, and the amateur who acted in it were not remarkable for histrionic proficiency. The proceeds of the representation are to be devoted, we understand, to the support of the Catholic schools.

A "DIFFICULTY."—The Savannah correspondent of the *St. Louis Republican*, in a letter dated the 19th of June, says:—"A fearful tragedy occurred here last week, resulting in the death of Mr. Robert C. Satterlee, one of the proprietors of the *Leavenworth Herald*. The facts are these:—A communication appeared in the editorial columns of the *Daily Conservative* in which the author vaunted his exploits of the day previous in capturing a secession flag at Iatan, Mobile, and intimated that there was no one who had pluck enough to interfere or stop him. There was no signature to this communication, but it was generally known to have been written by Daniel R. Anthony, the proprietor of the *Conservative*. The next day the *Herald*, in an editorial, referred to the communication in the *Conservative*, and stated that the same was written by D. R. Anthony. The article went on to say that there was another version of the affair, which the writer had obtained from an 'eye-witness,' a reliable gentleman, and that Mr. Anthony, instead of frightening everybody at Iatan, was himself so badly scared that he fled hastily and precipitately to the boat, which was moored at the landing and filled with troops. The morning this appeared in the *Herald* Mr. Anthony, accompanied by a friend, sought out Robert C. Satterlee, publisher of the *Herald*, and after some hot words had passed both parties drew their pistols and fired. Anthony's first fire accidentally took effect on the body of the friend who accompanied him, inflicting a very severe and dangerous wound. Satterlee fired once, but missed his mark. Anthony then pursued Satterlee down the street, fired three more shots at him, and killed him. All the actors in this tragedy being prominent citizens the transaction threw the town into a fever of excitement. Mr. Anthony holds the position of Postmaster at Leavenworth, having been appointed by Mr. Lincoln, and is a rabid Abolitionist. Anthony was examined before the Recorder, and held in 10,000 dols. bail for his appearance at the next term of the district court."

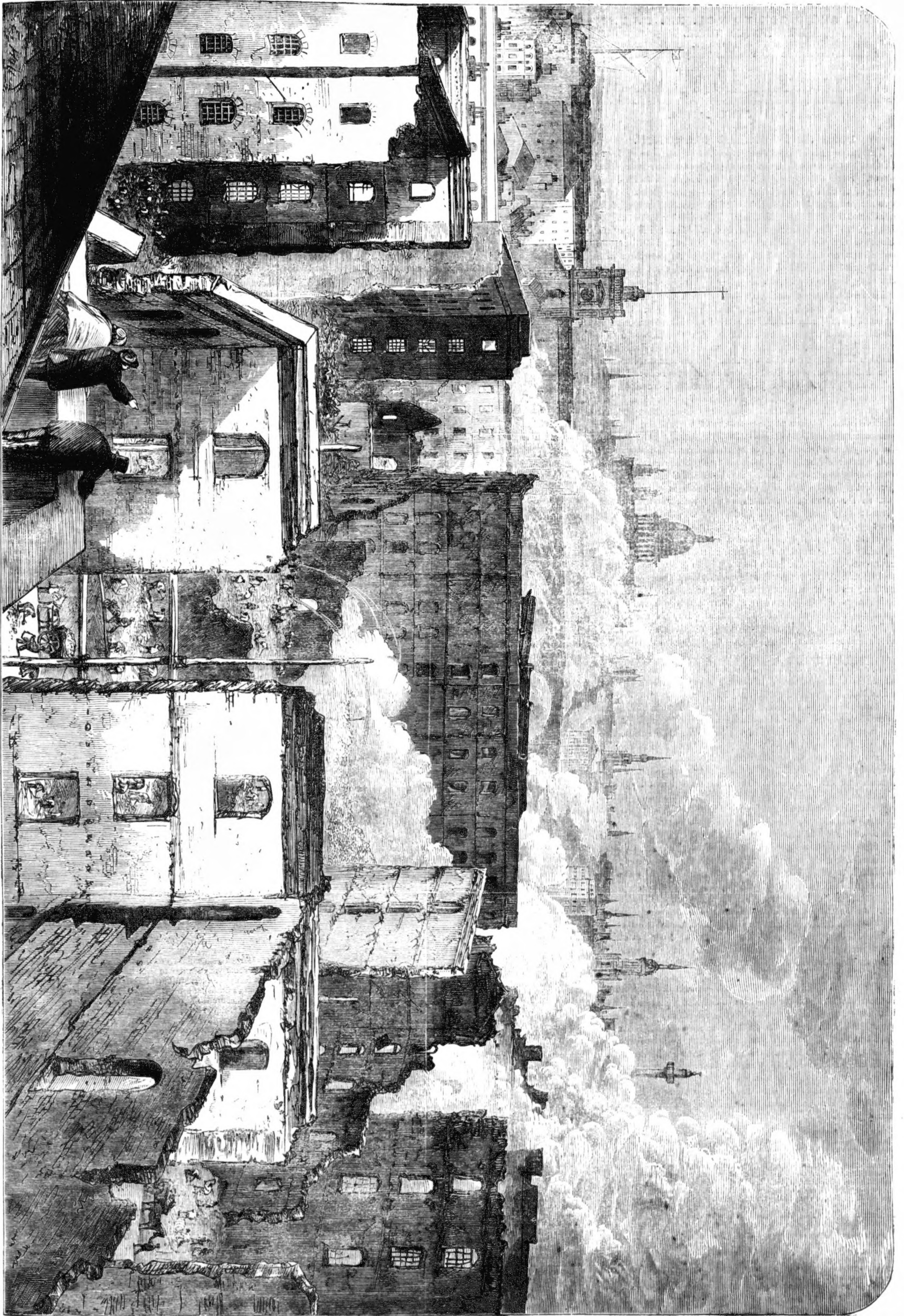
SUSPECTED MURDER AT CAMBRIDGE.—On the morning of Sunday, the 30th ult., a youth named Rumbelow, the son of a labourer, did not return home all night. Search was made for him in all directions for several days without success, until, on the morning of Friday, July 3, his body was discovered in the River Cam. An inquest was held by the borough Coroner, the verdict being "That deceased came to his death by violence, but by whom inflicted there was no evidence to show." The evidence was most contradictory. Public excitement went on increasing, suspicion pointing to a youth named Pison, about seventeen years of age, who is said to have been a somewhat disreputable character. On Monday a warrant against Pison was issued, and he was brought before the Mayor and a bench of magistrates on Tuesday. He was undefended, and exhibited the utmost self-possession. A good deal of evidence was taken, in the course of which the father of the deceased deposed that deceased had 11s. in his pocket when he left home on the night on which he was missed, that he was a quiet and steady lad, and not likely to have committed suicide. A witness named Elizabeth Chapman stated that, between twelve and one o'clock on the night in question, she was passing not far from the spot where the body was found, and saw deceased, the prisoner, and one or two other men wrangling. Heard prisoner threaten to throw deceased into the river unless he gave up something which he had been having, and she saw several blows struck. This inquiry was adjourned.



THE LORD MAYOR OF DUBLIN READING THE CORPORATION ADDRESS TO THE PRINCE OF WALES IN ST. PATRICK'S HALL.—SEE PAGE 37.



THE NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION MEETING AT WIMBLEDON.—THE CONTEST FOR THE QUEEN'S PRIZE.—SEE PAGE 34.



THE RUINS OF THE LATE GREAT FIRE AT SOUTHWARK.—(SCULPTED FROM MR. AID-EMAN HUMPHREY'S WALL.)

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1861.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL'S PROMOTION.

THE promotion of Lord John Russell to the House of Lords (if that be the correct way of putting it) was not an unexpected event. Several months ago it was rumoured that Lord John, tiring of his many and arduous labours, began to cast a longing eye across the lobbies toward the "other House," where if he continued his duties as a Minister of the Crown, he would be freed from the weariness and fret of official life in the House of Commons. When the Duke of Bedford died certain considerations which it would be impertinent to declare in a public print strengthened these rumours, and now, it seems, the change is resolved upon.

Its announcement has been received with mingled feelings by the public and improved variously by the press. One influential journal regards the transfer of so able a statesman to the House of Peers as some evidence of a "calm world" (at least so far as internal politics are concerned), and doubts not that his Lordship's decision was formed from a mature conviction that the course resolved upon would best serve the Liberal cause and party. Other journals evidently look upon the move as dangerous to the Liberal cause and party; though they do not go so far as to assert—what they dare to hint—that it is made in indifference to the interests of Liberalism. To be sure, the Radicals in the Lower House have at present thrown the party into confusion. Again, no Reform Bill has passed; and, whatever may be the need of such a measure, there is even less prospect of its passing in a House of Commons without Lord John Russell than with him. All this is very serious; but, so far as the ultra-Reformers are concerned, we doubt whether they need take his Lordship's translation much to heart. If a year or two ago they flattered themselves that the great Whig aristocrat had found his last, best interest in hallooing at their head, he has since convinced them of their error, one would think. But they ought to have known from the beginning that their votes are one thing, their principles another; and that an aristocratic Whig statesman is precisely the man to despise the former least and the latter most. Upon the whole, we think the Radical party in the House of Commons will have reason to congratulate itself on Lord John's absence from that assembly.

As to the existence of any party or political motive in the transfer we are now discussing, we see no sufficient reason to believe in it. The advantage of having so experienced a debater as Lord John Russell in the House of Lords, where the Government is exceedingly overmatched, may reconcile his colleagues to the change, but it is improbable that such considerations had anything to do with bringing it about. Statecraft, like law and the stage, seems to have some power of rewarding its most faithful sons with a hale old age; but every statesman is not so tough as Lord Palmerston; and when we remember that the Foreign Secretary has not only spent fifty years in harness, but has always played a busy and laborious part in public affairs, we need not go far afield to inquire why at seventy years of age he should accept a dignity which withdraws him from much of the worry of political life. The wonder rather is that he has stood it so long. A single session in the House of Commons nowadays is almost enough to destroy the stamina of a young Minister (did such a being exist); the old ones may be seasoned, but their hour is appointed too.

The expectation that Lord John's influence will decline as soon as he enters the Upper House is probably exaggerated. His apparent influence may decline; but his real influence is in the Cabinet, and depends on the use of his brains and his experience in the actual government of the country. What we shall lose is the benefit of his Parliamentary experience, the value of which in moderating the debates of the popular assembly can scarcely be over-estimated. The mere presence of a cool old hand like Lord John in a mixed mob of politicians cannot fail of a most wholesome effect; and for this reason, and because the House of Commons is too poor to afford the loss of so much political dignity and learning as reside in Lord John Russell, do we regret his "elevation" to the House of Peers. And this, we believe, is the general feeling; but we cannot have a word to say against the retirement of an old and loyal servant of the country from duties too harassing for one who has come, through many labours, to seventy years.

THE BRASS-BAND CONTEST AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—On Tuesday and Thursday last week the great National Brass-band Contest will be held. Upwards of one hundred bands are entered. As they will assemble each afternoon on the great orchestra and perform several pieces of music with their united force, the effect likely to be produced may be more easily imagined than described. Special trains will be run by all the railways, and large excursions are expected from Yorkshire, Lancashire, and other strongholds of native musical talent. On Wednesday next Blondin, by special request, gives a "drawing-room" performance on a tightrope on a stage in the centre transept. This will be the only performance of the kind given by M. Blondin.

THE TURKISH MARRIAGE LAWS.—With reference to a statement that the late Sultan had four or five wives, a correspondent says:—"It is matter of history that no Sultan of the Ottoman race has been legally married since the days of Bajazet the Great. On his capture by Timur, after the battle of Angora, the Sultana was treated with gross insult, and to guard against the shadow of a chance of such a disgrace recurring, no inmate of the seraglio has for more than 400 years been a legitimate wife according to Mussulman law."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

A VIOLENT THUNDERSTORM passed over the villages of Lowdham, Bulcote, Carlton, &c., Nottinghamshire, a few days ago, and during the storm the electric fluid struck the parish church of Bulcote, entirely demolishing it.

BLUE COATS have been furnished to provincial letter-carriers, instead of red ones. These coats, as well as the red coats of the mail guards, are of a much better material than those hitherto provided.

AT VENICE, in the evening of the 14th, a fire broke out in the arsenal, but it was extinguished before any great damage was done. It is supposed to have been wilfully occasioned.

M. MEYERBEER and M. AUBER have acceded to the request made to them by the Commissioners of the London Exhibition of 1862 to supply a musical composition to be executed at the opening.

MAJOR BRABAZON has left home for China, to seek after his son, whom he—and he alone of all the world—believes to be still living.

M. ALEXANDRE DUMAS has left Marseilles for Naples, where, it is said, he is about to found an extensive culinary establishment.

DURING THE TEN DAYS OF THE COMPETITION AT WIMBLEDON more than 150,000 ball cartridges were expended.

IN THE CONTINENTAL HOTEL, PHILADELPHIA, there is a steam-lift for taking the guests to bed. It is said to have cost 10,000 dollars, or more than £2000.

THE POTATO DISEASE has reappeared in North Lincolnshire, although the plants had for some time looked extremely healthy. In other parts of the eastern district the crop also lacks the firmness once observable in this most valuable vegetable.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL was held last week, in accordance with a resolution unanimously adopted, to confer the freedom of the city upon Lieutenant-General Sir James Hope Grant, G.C.B.

THE SOUTH-WESTERN RAILWAY COMPANY are laying down a double line between Wool and Warham, on the Dorchester line, and building a handsome waiting-room at the Poole station on the same line.

THE NAME OF THE LATE SIR FRANCIS PALGRAVE before his conversion from Judaism was Cohen. The Master of the Rolls has appointed Mr. T. Duffus Hardy Assistant-Keeper of the Public Records in the place of the deceased.

THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT has given orders to various manufactories in Bohemia for 30,000 iron camp beds, which are to be sent within a short time to the confines of Croatia, Slavonia, and Dalmatia.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL brings addresses of condolence to her Majesty on the death of the Duchess of Kent, from both Houses of Parliament at Melbourne.

THE GOLD ROSE ENRICHED WITH DIAMONDS, which the Pope annually offers to one of the Princesses of Europe, is this year destined for the young Queen of Naples.

THE VICE-ROY OF EGYPT has published a decree abolishing the bastinado, both for the Army and Navy. The most rigid orders have been given for the strict execution of this decree.

A NUMBER OF COFFEE-HOUSES AT VENICE have been closed in consequence of the keepers declining to subscribe to the *Verona Journal*, the Government organ.

ONE OF THE TREES planted by the Prince of Wales in the Central Park, New York, is dead; it was an English oak. The other is green and flourishing.

IN ADDITION TO THE FORTIFICATIONS projected by the French on the Chaussy Islands, on the coast between Jersey and France, it is rumoured that the Emperor has made provision for forming in their immediate neighbourhood a camp of 40,000 men.

MR. BUCKLE'S NEW VOLUME is intended to contrast the civilisation of Germany and the United States, we hear.

HALF OF THE EMPEROR'S "LIFE OF CAESAR" is shortly to be issued.

GENERAL LAMORICIERE has declined to take again the command of the Pope's army.

A REPORT that the Great Eastern had foundered, with all hands, was prevalent in Manchester one day last week, and created a great sensation.

YOUNG MR. PATTERSON BONAPARTE is about to marry a daughter of Prince Murat, it is said.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has presented to Mr. Thomas Gullick, of Pall-mall, a valuable scarf-pin, consisting of a large globe emerald, in the centre of which is set a richly-cut diamond, as a testimonial of his Majesty's approval of Mr. Gullick's invention of the Patent Eclipse Spur-box, which raises the spur to the top of the heel.

THE LONDON SCOTCH REGIMENT on Wednesday evening gave a complimentary dinner to Lord Clyde, K.T., their honorary Colonel, at St. James's Hall. There were about 350 present, more than half of them being members of the Scotch corps.

MR. WOOD, a brother of the Vice-Chancellor of that name, is talked of as a Liberal candidate for the representation of the city of London. A requisition to the Lord Mayor is being proceeded with.

THE CEREMONY of testing the quality of the coinage, or the trial of the pyx, was performed at the Exchequer Office on Wednesday. The requisite number of Privy Counsellors were in attendance, and twelve gentlemen, bankers and goldsmiths, were sworn as jurymen. The sum assayed reaches the large amount of £27,000,000.

THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF A NEW CHAPEL was laid at the Wellington College on Friday week by the Prince Consort.

MR. EDWIN JAMES was married last week at Paris to Mrs. Hilliard, a widow lady, who is well known to a wide circle of our country people abroad. Mr. and Mrs. James left Paris next day, but not for America.

A GREAT DOG-SHOW has been held at Leeds this week, with prizes for the best animal in every variety—bloodhounds, greyhounds, mastiffs, bulldogs, setters, pointers, harriers, poodles, terriers, spaniels, pugs, otter-hounds, deerhounds, &c.

THE *Levant Herald* publishes, in capital letters, the following sentence:—"The Sultan himself has announced his intention to keep only one wife."

THE FRENCH JOURNALS, which but a little time ago predicted such dire consequences from the withdrawal of the French army from Syria, are now instructed to admit that things are going on extremely well in that country.

THE SIAMSE AMBASSADORS, now in Paris, are about to make an excursion to London.

THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT has decided on recognising the kingdom of Italy.

THE GREAT EASTERN, with her freight of troops, arrived at Quebec on the 6th inst.

A BILL is IN PREPARATION, promoted by Government, for exempting the building for the Exhibition of 1862 from the operations of the Metropolitan Building Act.

MARSHAL DE MACMAHON has passed a day at Vichy with the Emperor. It is supposed that the Marshal was sent for to receive instructions on the subject of the visit which the King of Prussia, the King of the Belgians, and even the Grand Duke Constantine, may possibly make to the camp of Chalons.

RIFLE CONTEST AT ALDERSHOT.—A grand military rifle match has been held at Aldershot this week. The prizes were shot for by officers and soldiers of the Line, except a Rifle Derby, which was open to all comers. This contest is intended to be annual, and to be for the regular troops what the contest at Wimbledon is to the volunteers. There was some very good shooting. The prizes amounted in value to £240, exclusive of the Rifle Derby.

ORDNANCE IN THE REIGN OF HENRY VI.—A wrought-iron gun made in the reign of Henry VI. was cut open in the Royal gun-factories, Woolwich, last week, for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of its construction. The gun has proved to be similar to the ordnance designed a few years ago by Mr. Dundas, and consists of longitudinal staves or bars, built up and hooped with a series of outer rings, the interiors being run in with lead. The process has undergone considerable examination and much scientific scrutiny.

INDIAN HUNTING.—A correspondent of the San Francisco *Times* gives the following account of two weeks' operations of the Indian hunts on the northern border of the State:—"I suppose you have had the news up to 27th of May from W. J. Reed, and from his reports you do not give us credit by fourteen for the amount killed. May 30 was one of the greatest days in our campaign, from the fact that at one o'clock a.m. we started from our camp with Lieut. Collins at the head of the party, and, after travelling until about six a.m., we came in sight of the ranches post. As the Indians were going out hunting, we commenced firing, and after a fight of half an hour went to counting the dead, and found about twenty-five buck Indians dead and about ten wounded. We found no guns, but got twelve quivers full of arrows, which the Indians had made use of very fast. And then comes June 2, and with it another fight, showing evident signs that but few escaped the lead or knife. We were stationed in all directions here, and counted twenty-three killed and some wounded. We then burned the ranches and returned to camp. June 8.—Had another fight, killing seven. Some of the boys are out now, and I have not heard from them."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

LORD JOHN RUSSELL is to go to the House of Peers as "Earl Russell, of Ardsalla," in the county of Meath, Ireland. The reason why he takes this curious title is this: the noble Lord has an estate at Ardsalla; it belonged to the Earl of Ludlow, who left it to the Duke of Bedford, who left it to Lord John, his brother. The property is worth about £5000 a-year, and has a good house upon it. It is the only landed estate that his Lordship possesses. That Lord John should take a peerage can surprise no one; he is in his seventieth year, or near it. Last winter he was severely shaken by a prolonged attack of cold; and it is natural that he should now wish for that rest which by forty-eight years of labour in the House of Commons he has earned. I understand that it is settled that the noble Lord is to have the Garter vacant by the death of the Duke, his brother. Lord John, then, now lays the foundation of another noble house. Will it be as illustrious as the old house of Russell? It can scarcely ever hope to be as rich, for there are in these days no monasteries to be suppressed, nor can the Crown dispose of Royal demesnes amongst its favoured subjects as Harry the Eighth used to do.

Lord Palmerston is in no small difficulty just now. He wants a Secretary for War but cannot readily find one. He wants also an Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, to represent that department in the Commons, but looks around in vain for a suitable man. The Commons have already grumbled audibly that so many heads of departments—the War Secretary, the Colonial Secretary, the First Lord of the Admiralty, and the Postmaster-General—are in the Upper House, and now Lord John Russell is going there; and it is, no doubt, a great inconvenience, but how is it to be remedied? Lord Palmerston cannot make men, and, with the exception of Sir James Graham and Sir Francis Baring, there are none ready made, and neither Sir James nor Sir Francis are willing to take office. Sir James would certainly not take any post. Compared with the Premier, he is not an old man. His age is that of Lord John Russell—sixty-nine; but he is obviously overtaken by infirmities, and could not bear the anxieties and labours of official life. Sir Francis is only sixty-five; but it is understood that he is not ambitious for place, and, moreover, he is rather too antique and conservative for these times. Mr. Horsman is, of course, out of the question, albeit he has been in office, and unquestionably has abilities. If ever he should take his place in a Government again it will probably be under the presidency of Lord Derby. Sir John Ramsden, who for a time held the post of Under-Secretary for War, is under the cold shade of Mr. Horsman just now. Some shiftings have been talked of. For example, it has been said that Sir G. Lewis is to be Secretary for War, Sir George Grey is to go to the Home Office, Mr. Cardwell to the Duchy of Lancaster, and Mr. Chichester Fortescue to the Irish Office; but these changes are, I fancy, mere guesses. It is probable that we shall rub on as well as we can to the end of the Session; but we shall, we may be sure, have a series of changes before Parliament meets again.

We were very near the other night another row and Ministerial defeat upon the Conspiracy to Murder question. We all remember Lord Palmerston's bill in 1859, a defeat upon which led to the resignation of the noble Lord. Well, on Monday night it was discovered that the identical proposition of the noble Lord had been smuggled into The Offences against Persons Bill—one of the consolidation bills which have come from the Lords. The discovery of this proposed change in the law is, I think, due to Mr. Ayrton; but it was first publicly brought to the notice of the House by Mr. Henley, and I shall not soon forget the effect which the announcement of the discovery produced. At first the Government treated the matter lightly, and seemed determined to push the clause; but the temper of the House was soon so strongly manifested that the Home Secretary was compelled to withdraw it. Indeed, I rather think that one or two of his own colleagues gave him some hints and reminders that showed him conclusively that he was on a track that would lead to serious consequences if he persisted. Gladstone was on the bench at the time, and Milner Gibson; and it was evident that when their attention was called to this clause they were perfectly astounded. And this might well be so; or in 1859 Gladstone, Gibson, and Lord John voted against the Government upon this very question. Milner Gibson, it will be remembered, was the leader of the movement on that occasion. One wonders who could have had the audacity to smuggle this obnoxious proposal into the bill.

The second Great Exhibition of the Fine Arts in Germany (originated with such success in Munich in 1858) is now open at Cologne, and admirably shows not only the present standard of art in Germany, but gives an historical insight into the progress it has made during the last 150 years, beginning with Carstens and others, and including works of masters of the present day. Large contributions have been sent from all parts of Germany; and, as the exhibition comprises all the principal paintings executed during the above-mentioned period; it has a much greater interest than any arranged by *Kunstvereins* or other institutions which merely contain works of the latest date, and which are arranged more by chance than by artistic taste and selection. All the great German galleries and private collections have been placed at the disposal of the committee, the different Governments and the owners of the pictures having patriotically consented to lend works to an undertaking of such general interest, and thus the public will be enabled to form a correct judgment of German art in all the various forms of its original character in all its branches—a judgment which could not be formed in any of the London or Paris exhibitions, where only the works of a few German artists are exhibited.

The description of Mr. Roberts's room, the scene of the recent tragedy in Northumberland-street, as given by the *Times* reporter, has afforded a theme for much gossip—it may be interesting to state that a room very similar to this in its luxurious furniture, &c., and in its complete incrustation of the dust of ages, is to be found in Mr. Sala's amusing story, "How I Tamed Mrs. Cruiser," published, I believe, some three or four years since.

Leicester-square, which for many years has been the scene of nightly blackguardism, is to be purified and made decent. Mr. Wyld's few specimens of art and many specimens of trumpery have been sold, the hideous architectural excrescence in the inclosure is to be removed, and the inclosure itself is to be turned into a flower garden, under the auspices of the district Board of Works. We shall now have the opportunity of seeing a specimen of the taste of Mr. Thwaites's subordinates in landscape-gardening and horticultural arrangements. Let us pray that Captain Fowke be not employed: we have seen quite enough of that gallant engineer's prowess at South Kensington.

There is to be a grand congress of artists of all nations at Antwerp next month. The gentlemen chosen by the Royal Academy to represent English art are Sir Edwin Landseer, Messrs. David Roberts, E. M. Ward, Doo, and Westmacott.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

On the occasion of Mr. Buckstone's benefit on Friday last, when a very large and very merry party was assembled at the HAYMARKET, there was produced a piece by Mr. Planché called "My Lord and My Lady," and translated from Dumas' "Un Mariage sous Louis Quinze." The plot is far too slight for the five acts into which it is extended, and the piece will probably have no lengthened run; but it is particularly well acted, and a marked improvement is visible in Mrs. Charles Mathews. As in these columns we have frequently felt it our duty to speak in strong terms of this lady's want of taste, we have great pleasure in being able to report her improvement.

"Hamlet" rendered into French by Messrs. Dumas and Meurice, and acted by M. Rouviere at the St. JAMES'S on Wednesday, before a handful of people, was a very ghastly and dispiriting performance.

Literature.

our Social Bees; or, Pictures of Town and Country Life, &c. By ANDREW WYNTER, M.D. Robert Hardwicke.

For the benefit of such individuals as may not have the good fortune of knowing what "Social Bees" are, Dr. Wynter philanthropically furnishes the information:—Social bees are a collection of remarkably well written magazine papers, many of which we are delighted to meet for the first time, whilst many more are read over again with well-sustained pleasure. The *Edinburgh* and the *Quarterly*, the *Times*, *Fraser*, *Once A Week*, and other periodicals, are drawn upon to make up a volume, which is not, indeed, one harmonious whole, but rather resembles those celebrated "united families" where plenty of discord is always on hand. The subjects are as varied as heads at a public meeting. "Work for Women" pushes against "Preserved Meats," and "The Artificial Man" is next door to "Britannia's Smelling Bottle." But the collection, although amusing, is not nearly so valuable and interesting as the "Curiosities of Civilisation," by the same author. Yet it is a decided improvement on many of the many reprints of the day, the papers in which too frequently commence with, "I'm Jones; my wife is Mrs. Jones," or some other startling assertion of that description. Dr. Wynter's style is humorous without being jerky or grotesque, and he has the faculty of imparting what information he has to offer in a manner which has not the effect of totally disguising the substance for the reader. The writer's professional knowledge of medicine, chemistry, &c., is turned to good account by this unprofessional style; for when he touches on such scientific points his observations are as clear as daylight to those who have never seen a dissection nor exhausted a mouse in a receiver. A few pages on aerated bread will probably send many readers to the nearest shop where it may be purchased. That terrible half-quartern can never again be endured after the terrible revelations concerning its manufacture. In London the process is invisible, unless, indeed, any person possesses the "double million magnifying power" of Sam Weller, and can see through a paving stone. But in Paris (if you happen to keep English hours) may be seen on the way home at night the awful spectacle of half-a-dozen demons, totally reformed in their tailors' bills, capering wildly inside and outside of an immense mound of dough, a portion of which will probably decorate your breakfast-table to-morrow morning. From Dr. Wynter's paper we fancy such arrangements are rather worse in England. In all probability the proverbial "peck of dirt" is frequently all upon one plate at the same time. The account of the successful working of bread-making by machinery, at the steam bakery of Messrs. Peck and Co., of Dockhead, will restore a little confidence to the sufferer from eating unwholesome and dirty everyday half-quarterns. A little judicious pressure of public opinion would effectually stifle the present disgusting system, in which no attempt at improvement has been made for centuries.

In the midst of much admiration there is a great pleasure in discovering a few errors. The account of the Hunterian Museum is substantial and anecdotal enough; but is there not some discrepancy about the Irish giants? There is "the Irish giant, O'Bryan, who drank himself to death," who tried to escape post-mortem honours by directing that his body should be buried at sea, but who was purchased from the undertaker, for £800 by Hunter, who boiled him down, and erected his skeleton complete. Then there comes "the Irish giant Patrick Cotter, eight feet seven inches;" and the identity of one or the other appears to us uncertain. In the *Annual Register*, volume for 1825 (if we remember correctly), is an account of the death of Patrick O'Brien (not O'Bryan), whose real name was Patrick Cotter. He is described as having made a comfortable competence as an exhibition, retired, died two years after, having an objection to the boiling process, and directing that his body should be buried in a deep excavation in a solid rock; but there is no mention of any surgeon having been successful in carrying out those nefarious schemes which result from the sinful lust of bones. There is probably some confusion between these two O'Bryens or O'Bryans.

In an article or "Brain Difficulties," a review of a book by Dr. Forbes Winslow, there is an evident error. This is the anecdote:—

From subsequent investigation we find that, besides Captain Westcott killed, and Nelson himself wounded, three Captains were wounded at the Nile. But still it is impossible that either *dansaraz* of the Orion, Darby of the Bellerophon, or Ball of the Alexander, could have been the hero of Dr. Wynter's anecdote; for on the 3rd of August, two days after the battle commenced, all the Captains (except Thompson of the Leader, who was not wounded) were sufficiently in their senses to meet on board the Orion, and to sign a resolution begging Nelson to accept a sword, and to have his portrait taken.

It is indeed extraordinary, and rendered a great deal more extraordinary from the fact that none of Nelson's captains were wounded at the Nile, except Captain Westcott, of the *Majestic*, who was killed in the action. Considering the *locale* of the anecdote, it is probably an old sailor's yarn.

When we have said that it is not the portrait of Lindley but of Linley, in the Dulwich Gallery, and that Tennyson is constantly misquoted, we have finished with such errors as we have happened to come across.

A glance at the subjects of the book will best explain and recommend it. Here are "Club Chambers for the Married"—a French idea; a curious paper on "Human Hair;" "London Smoke and London Stout;" a chapter on "Preserved Meats," in which the highly-vilified and now ruined Goldner is proved to be an injured angel and the naval authorities a set of unscientific blockheads; the Post Office, the Turkish Bath, and fifty others, make up the volume.

Queensland, Australia, a Highly Eligible Field for Emigration, and the Future Cottonfield of Great Britain, &c. By JOHN DUNMORE LANG, D.D., A.M., &c. Edward Stanford.

Good Mohammedans pick up every loose scrap of printed paper they may meet with in the streets, on the ground that it may bear the sacred name of Allah. Gentlemen, in their first aspiration after ladies, collect with ravenlike care every conceivable thing, even to "shreds and patches," connected with the object of their affections. On similar principles Dr. Lang, who joins aspiration with admiration, has amassed and stuck together every word that ever existed on the subject of "Queensland," our new Australian colony—Moreton Bay District, as it is more familiarly known. The effect is of the patchwork character; or, to an Englishman, it is not unlike those Continental dinners where the order of refreshment is reversed, the cheese leading the van, the fish the rear. One-fourth of the Doctor's volume is occupied with a most interesting account of the aborigines; but this comes as the last thing in the scheme. However, the system is correct; for it is of the utmost importance to learn, first of all, that on Dec. 10, 1860, Queensland was proclaimed a colony on its own account, no longer to be subjected to government, however good, from a place so far off as Sydney, the capital of New South Wales. For this highly important measure Queensland is considerably indebted to Dr. Lang himself, who for many years past has been labouring with astonishing vigour for the welfare of the Australian colonies. That his book is laughably egotistical cannot be denied; but that any person having done so much should be successful in concealing self-approbation is improbable. Indeed, the Doctor has been so singularly successful in his praiseworthy endeavours that it was high time he should prove himself mortal.

It is unnecessary, and, indeed, without occupying very great space, impossible, to give any fair sketch of the country from the elaborate descriptions of Dr. Lang. The contents are divided into Extent and geographical features, Clarence and Richmond Rivers, Brisbane River and Moreton Bay, the Darling Downs, North-north settlements; Natural and Artificial Productions of Queensland; Cotton, Climate, Colonisation, Responsible Government, &c. It is scarcely necessary

to say that the answers to every question raised are satisfactory. Queensland can be made to produce everything, whilst it is already rich in iron, coal, gold, and, as for fruits and vegetables, there is scarcely a country that can compete with it. But, in the midst of the American crisis, the chapter of Dr. Lang's work "Cotton, the Future Staple Production of Queensland" will be read with the deepest interest. We have for years past been attempting to suppress the slave trade, and have contemptuously neglected any measures for obtaining free cotton or sugar. If the mill stops, if the tea be unsweetened, the authorities (mysterious entities!) alone are to blame. Twelve years since Forbes Royle called attention to India, but nothing came of it; and now, in a moment of difficulty, it is most probable that there are many obstacles in the way of the cultivation of cotton in the East. The land is not yet sufficiently quiet, and the famine is abroad. But turn to Queensland. Already cotton has been produced at a profit of 500 per cent, and it is possible to obtain an even higher remuneration. A man emigrates, and the Government make him a grant of land at least of equal value to the passage-money. His children, nuisances at home, are invaluable abroad. They can pick the cotton quite as well, without any of the horror, as the negro slave. The cotton in Australia is a perennial plant; in the States it is annually destroyed by the frost. Through this the labour saved is enormous, whilst the cotton itself becomes stronger and stronger year by year.

Dr. Lang is not a man of but one idea. He brings many ideas to condense into a harmonious whole. He is positive as to the kind of people he wants in Queensland. No coolies. They are an unpleasant race. Only the men emigrate, for instance, and that is a source of eternal vice and crime. From home they must not be all Irish, as the colony really was some time ago—a mere territory of the Pope! The doctor has exerted himself; he has obtained English immigrants, "almost all persons of Evangelical churches," and now he wants a strong army of children to carry out the darling cotton theory. Bring them, then, from the blacking brigades, from the charity schools, from the blind alleys, from the kennel; they will do well in life, and will tend to conserve the prosperity of the mother country.

The elaborate chapter on the aborigines is of more interest, if of less importance, than other portions of the volumes. The natives have most revolting customs, especially with their dead. They are cannibals—possibly ghouls—and Freemasons! But, as a rule, they are in perfect friendliness, and submission to the white man, whom they can quiz for his peculiarities, if he have any, and respect for his extra cultivation. But the white man is not always grateful. There are instances of farmers destroying bushmen, a score at a time, with arsenic!

A Guide to the Isle of Man: with the Means of Access Thereto, and an Introduction to its Scenery, &c. By the REV. JOSEPH GEORGE CUMMING, M.A., F.G.S. London, Edward Stanford.

The East Coast of England, from the Thames to the Taper, Descriptive of Natural Scenery, &c. By MACKENZIE E. C. WALCOTT, M.A. London, Edward Stanford.

The large body of travellers who make the Continent their place of rest, with Murray for their guide, are seriously beginning to turn their tardy attention towards England. This is quite natural in a country like our own, where so many things are absolutely upside down; for instance, where the male and female youth are perfect masters and mistresses of their respective Latin and French, but have a knack of speaking the worst possible English. It may strongly be suspected that the annual excursions of Mr. Walter White may have much to do with the change setting in. His books are "guide, philosopher, and friend," in one: the very things to smooth the difficulties of the passage, and to teach how and where to look for interesting and beautiful objects.

Mr. Stanford puts forth the right books at the right time: when people are beginning to grow nervous and restless, and whitebait are too big to be eaten. The pleasant autumnal season, which so gracefully intervenes between the torrid heat of the whitebait and the December frigidity of the sprat, is the time for travelling, and one at least of these two little books will certainly create much excitement amongst our London birds of passage. If the swallows should unite to write "On the Wing: Narrative of a Residence, &c., during the Winter Months," it could scarcely give more fresh and interesting information than Mr. Cumming's "Isle of Man." The arrangement of the volume is admirable, it being divided into chapters concerning means of access, description, government, manners and customs, agriculture, fisheries, manufactures, &c., excursions to be made from the principal towns, civil and ecclesiastical history. People who are under the impression that the most particular fact about the Isle of Man is that the cats do not wear tails will be surprised to find that the country is most beautiful, the history most interesting, and that it abounds with strange legends and mysteries which cannot fail to be attractive to the poet and the antiquary. Mr. Cumming's volume must surely send travellers to the Isle of Man.

"The East Coast of England" is not of so interesting a stamp. It is on the old-fashioned guide-book principle, in which most pages are of value on the spot, but somewhat indifferent reading at home. But it is full of information, and, of course, much may be gathered "of interest to the general reader." But the general reader must take with it much opinion and criticism with which he may possibly disagree. It was the "infamous" Bradshaw who presided over the "mock" trial of Charles I. Rousseau left England, "happily, for ever." It was an "abominable" marriage between Mary and Philip of Spain. These are not unimportant blunders. Such expressions should not overload pages intended for readers and travellers of all opinions and creeds. To travel with the volume throughout would be a work of years; but it will be found of great service as a series of guides, taking severally each district as divided and arranged by the author. One certain fact results from the reading—that the pleasure and health seeker, the antiquarian, the flaneur—in short, all classes—need not travel far from home to obtain what they desire.

The Chemical History of a Candle; to which is added a Lecture on Platinum. By MICHAEL FARADAY, D.C.L., F.R.S., &c. Edited by WILLIAM CROOKES, F.R.S. Illustrated, Griffin, Bohn, and Co. It is not for us to "recommend" Faraday. We have simply to announce the publication of these lectures, delivered last Christmas holidays to the young people at the Royal Institution, and to say that the editing and getting up seem to us to be perfect.

Danish Fairy Legends and Tales. By HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN. Translated by CARLINE PEACHEY. With a Memoir of the Author. Third Edition enlarged. With 120 Illustrations, chiefly by Foreign Artists. H. G. Bohn.

One might almost as well sit down to review "Jack the Giant Killer" as Andersen's delightful stories. They have a character of their own which critics cannot touch, either to add or to take away. The twelve additional "Histories" given in this edition would have been better away perhaps (not being so good as the rest), but it is hard to think of giving back anything whatever to so great a favourite. The illustrations by the "foreign artists" are full of character and spirit, and not by any means the least attraction of the book.

We all of us owe a great deal to Mr. Bohn as a publisher, and this volume of his "Illustrated Library" is an obligation conferred upon children of all ages. It is a book to buy, to read, to give away—but the latter only in case you intend to buy another.

THE ADMIRALTY have given directions that the iron-cased steam-frigate *Warrior*, shall be supplied with Trotman's patent anchors. The first owner of which is 11 cwt., or a cwt. more than the heaviest anchor provided for the Great Eastern.

MR. COBDEN AT THE MANSION HOUSE.

THE civic banquet in honour of Mr. Cobden took place at the Mansion House on Wednesday night, the Lord Mayor presiding. There was a very numerous and distinguished company present. The Lord Mayor proposed the toast of the evening, "The health of Mr. Cobden," which was responded to by that gentleman in an admirable speech. "The House of Lords" was responded to by Lord Talbot de Malahide, "The House of Commons" by Mr. Bright, and "Our Foreign Guests" by M. Chevalier.

We make some selections from the speeches. Mr. Cobden said of the Commercial Treaty:—"If the peace for which we all pray can be preserved to us for five or ten years the treaty will have opened the door to such a commerce between these two great countries as will surpass—it must, in the nature of things, surpass—the commerce existing between any other two countries of the world. There are nearly 70,000,000 people placed side by side, rather than separated, by a narrow arm of the sea, possessing such a diversity of natural endowments that they seem, of all nations of the world, to be the most adapted for a beneficial commerce with each other, who yet by the perversity of legislation have been busily engaged in nothing less than thwarting the designs of Providence and preventing these advantages. Some people have said with regard to this treaty that it was entered into without the consent of public opinion in France, and that therefore when the ten years for which the treaty is made expire the danger is that the policy now adopted in France will be reversed. But I have seen no proof in France that public opinion is not in favour of the policy of the Government. On the contrary, since the treaty was signed everything has indicated that, with the logical talent and the quickness of perception which characterise our neighbours, they are making rapid progress still further in those principles. They have, for instance, since I was in Paris negotiating this treaty, by a vote of the Legislature, abolished their sliding scale, and left the import and export of grain practically free. The city of Lyons, whose great heart and high intelligence are well represented by my friend at my side, has, by a formal declaration of opinion, pronounced in favour of absolute free trade as far as regards the articles in which it is interested. I see, therefore, no prospect of the reversal of the principles adopted by the Emperor's Government. You may ask me whether I think other nations will follow in the footsteps of France and England. I frankly avow to you I am not much concerned about that question. Whatever France and England unite to do, whether it be a policy of war or peace, they will assuredly draw the whole civilised world within the circle of their influence. Any other nation which should attempt to hold aloof from the policy which France and England have now frankly embraced would find themselves so far behind in the race of civilisation and wealth that their own self-love, if no other motive existed, would induce them to follow the example we have set. After all, the great merit I see in this new arrangement between these two countries is the moral advantage which I hope will arise from the circumstance that Frenchmen and Englishmen will better know and understand each other than they have hitherto done. . . . Nothing has struck me more in my intercourse of eighteen months with the French people than the profound ignorance which the two people have with respect to each other. The English and Chinese seem to be almost as well acquainted with each other. I speak of the familiar knowledge which the mass of the English people have of the mass of the French people; and I look forward, therefore, with the greatest satisfaction to that change we are about to witness when Englishmen and Frenchmen will necessarily be tempted in the pursuit of business to mingle with each other, and thus better to understand each other."

M. Chevalier said:—"In our day the principle of free trade presents itself to the eyes of men in the character of a pacificator, and from the very fact that it favours peace it is favourable to every kind of progress, whether political or social. And here let me express from the bottom of my heart the confident hope that the principle of free trade will fulfil its mission of peace and harmony, especially between these great nations on the two sides of the Channel. Indeed, what serious motives can the Englishmen and the Frenchmen have for hating each other? They worship the same God. They profess sincerely the Christian maxim, so simple and so elevated, which suits the intelligence of the infant as it leaves the cradle, and on which the greatest genius may ponder with satisfaction—"Do unto others as thou wouldst have others do unto thee." Is it the clamour of other countries that provokes these two nations to regard each other with a restless and suspicious jealousy? By no means; from every side the nations declare to them, "Your good understanding is the surest guarantee for the political and social progress of the whole world, and your hostility, from the moment that it breaks out, will retard the prosperity of the entire human race." Is it the special interest of their separate influence? No; for when divided they paralyse each other. Or must they hate one another because the armaments of one necessarily give umbrage to the other? By no means; for the composition of their armaments is different. Both possess an army and a navy, but the amount of their forces instead of corresponding are in an inverse proportion to each other. In England the chief element is the navy; for France it is the army. I do not mean that England has not a brave and reliable army, or that France does not possess a considerable navy; but England ought not to, cannot, and will not have an army equal to that of France; and France ought not to, cannot, and will not have a navy equal to that of England."

Mr. Bright said:—"There are men whose folly, there are circumstances whose effect, may possibly precipitate these two countries again into disorder, hate, and war; but there is throughout England at this time a moral sense and a Christian feeling which, if they were once fairly bent upon the practices of this country, I believe would make it impossible for any cause not absolutely uncontrollable to involve these two countries again in war. Now, observe, my hon. friend Mr. Cobden has, in my opinion, been able—and I know not that a man could have lived for a more blessed work—to take the first great step in the changed policy which I hope the future will offer between England and France. We are now pulling down, or about to pull down, our old Foreign Office. We won't dispute here whether that shall be built up again in the Gothic or the Italian style of architecture. I am in favour—though my opinion on such a subject I offer as of no value—of the Italian style. But over and above all questions of style is this—I hope that when pickaxes and crowbars are employed to pull down the old Foreign Office, there will be somebody to bury many of its old traditions in its ruins. I am sure, if there be any moral government in the world, and if we are rational and Christian men, there must be some means of making the future of these countries better than the past. We may give confidence where suspicion has existed. We may, I believe, plant affection where hate has been known almost for ages to continue."

"THE MARKET-CART."

As long as people have any faith in the homely virtues, which are, perhaps, more lasting and more reliable than grand and high-sounding sentiments, so long will there be a good-humoured appreciation of such pictures as Mr. Cobbett's "Market-cart."

It has been our lot frequently, in passing through a picture-gallery, to see the great historic pieces deserted by all but a few languid critics, who gazed wistfully at them through their catalogues rolled into a sort of skeleton telescope; but around some other works there has been a crowd of people smiling, talking—nay, even crying sometimes. The reason of this is obvious enough. They had some story to tell which appealed to everybody. Failing to sympathise entirely with Cleopatra, we may yet have a very good understanding of the woes of Cinderella; and it is as refreshing sometimes to descend from the severely classic and visit the simply pathetic as it is to put down Lays and read "The Vicar of Wakefield." It is for these reasons, we believe, that such pictures as the one we have engraved this week keep a hold on the public taste and live in the remembrance of the spectator when more pretentious works are forgotten altogether.

ORANGEMEN IN LIVERPOOL.—The Orangemen of Liverpool had a procession yesterday outside the boundary of the borough. Large numbers of the "brithren" attended, and headed by bands of music they paraded the outskirts, and in the evening there were several balls throughout the town. There were, of course, one or two skirmishes, but fortunately not of a serious character. A large posse of police followed in the wake of the procession—a precaution pregnant with much good.



THE MARKET-CART.—FROM A PICTURE BY A. J. COLE, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE ARTISTS.

THE WATTS MEMORIAL STATUE.

A VERY handsome work of art has just been erected in the public park at Southampton to the memory of Dr. Isaac Watts, who was a native of that town, and Wednesday, being the 187th anniversary of the poet's birthday, was appropriately chosen for its inauguration. The weather was fine, and the ceremony was most interesting. An imposing procession, consisting of the Mayor, Recorder, magistrates, and Corporation of the borough, and other public bodies, accompanied the Earl of Shaftesbury—who had accepted the invitation to inaugurate the statue—from the Audit House to the park in which it is erected. The procession was headed by the band of the 2nd Hants Volunteer Rifles and the Royal Engineers and gentlemen engaged in the civil department at the Ordnance Map-office, followed by the bodies named in official costume, the clergy and ministers of all denominations, the Sunday-school teachers, and sundry others, the whole numbering several hundreds of persons. Large galleries had been erected for the accommodation of numerous ladies and gentlemen who occupied them, and the park was filled with thousands of people, while the streets through which the procession passed were crowded, and the windows and house-tops were all occupied. Flags floated everywhere, and the town has seldom put on a more thoroughly gay and holiday appearance.

On arrival at the ground Dr. Watts's hymn, "From all that dwell below the skies," was sung by a full orchestra, numbering some 200 or 300, composed of the united church and chapel choirs of the town. The Mayor (Mr. Alderman Coles) then advanced to the front of the dais and asked the Earl of Shaftesbury to inaugurate the statue. His Lordship ordered the statue to be uncovered, and when it stood unveiled several rounds of hearty cheering were given.

The Earl then made a speech, in which he said that as no oration, however studied or laboured, could do honour to the memory of such a man as Dr. Watts; but if he wished to collect panegyrics of him, he (Lord Shaftesbury) would go into all the cottages of the town, into the ragged-schools, and to the death-beds of expiring saints, and there catch the last faint whispers of dying Christians, and those should be his tributes. It was said of many men that their good dieth with them and their evil deeds remain. But, he thanked God for it, this was reversed in the case of Dr. Watts. His wrongs—and who is there that sinneth not?—have all passed away and become forgotten? But his good deeds survive, and will do so to the end of time.

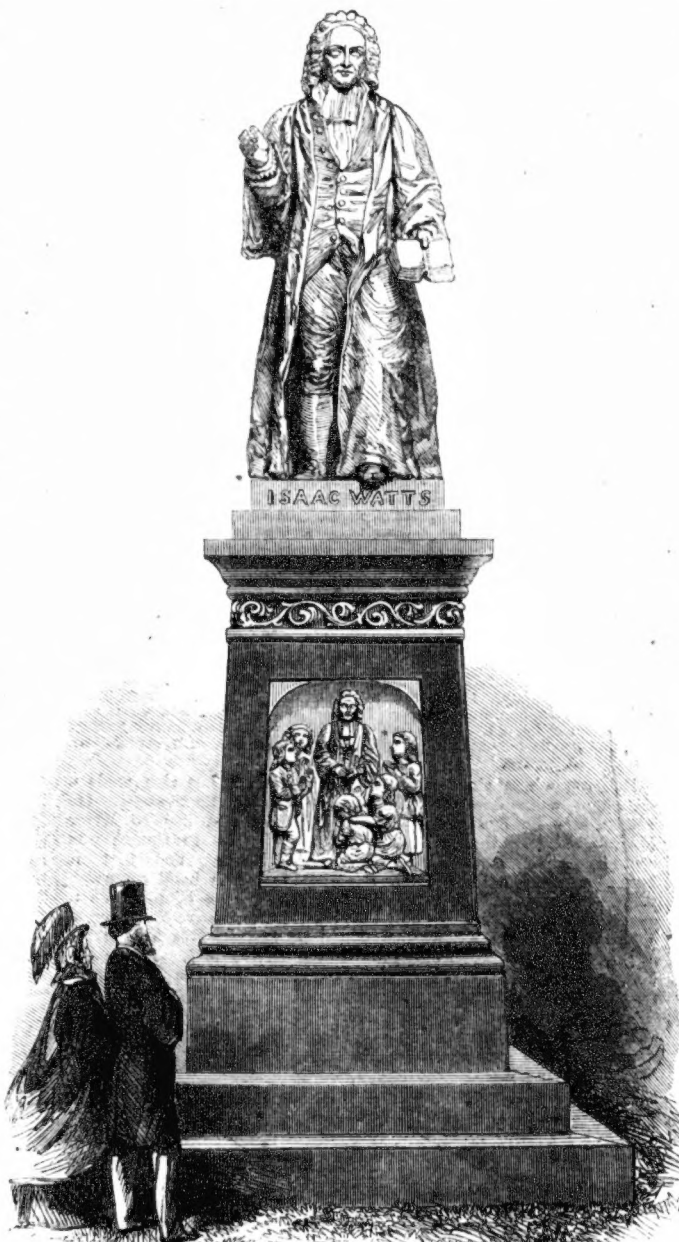
Another hymn was then sung, and the Rev. Mark Cooper, M.A., Rector of St. Mary's, offered the dedicatory prayer. The statue was then handed over to the Mayor, on behalf of the Corporation and the town, in an appropriate address, by the Rev. T. Adkins, pastor of the Above-Bar Independent Chapel, as Vice-President of the Committee, in the absence of the President, the Bishop of Rochester. The magnificent "Hallelujah Chorus" was sung by the choir, accompanied by the band; the Rev. Thomas Adkins pronounced the benediction, and the interesting ceremonial concluded by the band playing the National Anthem.

We must now give some description of the statue.

The whole monument is rather over 19 feet high, having a base of 8 feet 6 inches square, placed on a slightly-elevated mound. The statue itself, which is about 8 feet high, faces the south, looking towards the town, and is of the finest white Sicilian marble. There are three baso-relievs, also in Sicilian marble, on three sides of the shaft of the pedestal (on the fourth side is the inscription); one of them, in the front, represents Dr. Watts as a teacher of the young, surrounded by a group of lovely children, who are repeating to him their first lessons, and under which is inscribed the following words:—"He gave to lisping infancy its earliest and purest lessons." Another, on one side, represents him as a philosopher, with the following quotation from Dr. Johnson, in his life of Dr. Watts, inscribed beneath:—"He taught the art of reasoning and the science of the stars;" while a third, on the other side, represents him as a youthful poet with upturned look, under which is placed the following appropriate lines from one of his own hymns:—

To heaven I lift my waiting eyes,
There all my hopes are laid.

The pedestal is of the finest polished grey granite, and has been executed by Macdonald and Co., of Edinburgh. The statue itself conveys an expressive likeness of Dr. Watts obtained from the most authentic sources, and represents him in the attitude of a preacher of the gospel "proclaiming glad tidings," while an archaic honeysuckle worked round the upper part of the pedestal in white marble, is emblematic of the simplicity and purity of his character. The whole design has been most carefully studied, and the details worked out with the most scrupulous care. The site selected is a most happy and commanding one; and the portion of the park in which it is



MEMORIAL STATUE OF DR. ISAAC WATTS, INAUGURATED AT SOUTHAMPTON ON WEDNESDAY LAST.—(R. C. LUCAS, SCULPTOR.)

intended to be placed will hereafter be designated the "Watts Park." A brief notice of Dr. Watts may not be out of place here.

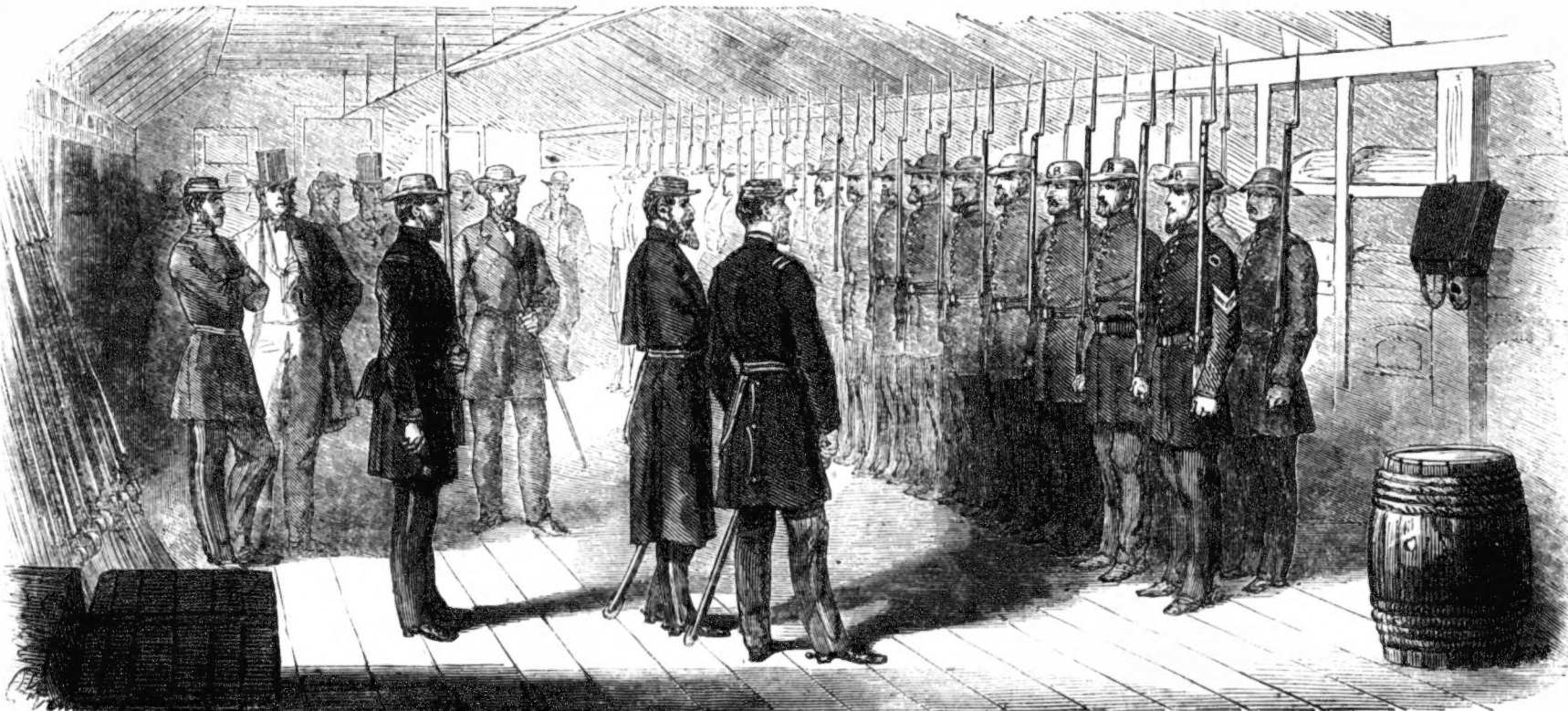
He was born July 17, 1674, in a house still standing, three doors below the market in French-street, Southampton, which used to bear the name of Little St. Dennis, probably from its having been in the middle ages a chapel connected with the monastery of that name, founded by Henry I., at Portwood. He loved learning from his earliest years, and began to cultivate it successfully in that valuable institution, the ancient Southampton Free Grammar-school. Having passed his youth in assiduous study he spent some years as domestic tutor to the son of a baronet. He then took the charge of an Independent congregation in London. But before he had reached his thirty-eighth year his health broke down, and, though he continued to the end of his life to serve his congregation as far as he could, his literary labours were thenceforward continued in a retreat at Stoke Newington. This was supplied to him by the generous friendship of Sir Thomas and Lady Abney, who received him into their pleasant

mansion, where for six and thirty years he was treated "with all the kindness their friendship could prompt, and all the attention that respect could dictate." Thus providentially favoured, neither ease of situation nor oppressive bodily infirmity could ever seduce him into indolence. His pen was active as long as he could hold it; and whether his subjects were literary, philosophical, or theological, all were imbued with the influence of the vital piety of his heart. His book on logic was long a text-book in our universities; his "Improvement of the Mind" has been pronounced by Dr. Johnson to be "a work in the highest degree useful and pleasing; so that whoever has the care of instructing others may be charged with deficiency in his duty if this book is not recommended." His "Hymns and Psalms," and his "Divine and Moral Songs for Children," have never ceased, since their first publication, to issue from the press in countless thousands; and few indeed are the collections of devotional poetry compiled for social worship in which some of his best hymns are not to be found.

He died at Stoke Newington, on Nov. 25, 1748, in his seventy-fifth year, and was buried in Bunhill-fields. A bust in Westminster Abbey commemorates his name. It is a very pleasant circumstance that, in the present effort to do honour to the excellence of Dr. Watts in his native town, there is a cordial concurrence of members of several different communions on behalf of a man who himself cherished the spirit of Christian unity. Yet, happily, this is not a new thing, Dr. Watts was in his lifetime in free correspondence with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London. Some of his publications were early placed in the Book List of the Church of England Christian Knowledge Society; and when the quarto edition of his works was published, in 1810, George III. and Queen Charlotte, with several members of the Royal family, headed a subscription-list which contained the names of many eminent persons, who never asked what were the modes of worship of men who, like Baxter, Doddridge, and Watts, lived and wrote for the holy Catholic Church in all times and places. "Such Watts was," said Dr. Johnson, "as every Christian church would rejoice to have adopted; eminent for literature and venerable for piety; gentle, modest, unaffected; his orthodoxy was united with charity; tender to the poor, and attentive to children. To the poor, while he lived in the family of his friend, he allowed the third part of his annual revenue, though the whole was not a hundred a year. For children he condescended to lay aside the scholar, the philosopher, and the wit, to write little poems of devotion and systems of instruction adapted to their capacities, from the dawn of reason through its gradations of advance in the morning of life. Every man acquainted with the common principles of human action will look with veneration on the writer who is at one time combating Locke, and at another making a catechism for children in their fourth year. A voluntary descent from the dignity of science is perhaps the hardest lesson that humility can teach. Few men have left behind such purity of character or such monuments of laborious piety. He has left neither corporeal nor spiritual nature unexamined; he has taught the art of reasoning and the science of the stars. There is, perhaps, nothing in which he would not have excelled, if he had not divided his powers to different pursuits."

THE TROOPS AT ILLINOIS.

OUR Engraving represents the inspection of a company of Pennsylvania volunteers at the barracks at Illinois, where General Prentiss is stationed with a body of troops who blockade both the Mississippi and the Ohio before their junction at Cairo. The General is placed in a position both difficult and dangerous, since he is almost surrounded by the enemy, and at the same time has to command men who are of such a mixed and diverse description that they are peculiarly difficult to deal with. Quite recently a complete tumult occurred in consequence of a deficiency in the water-tubs of a regiment who, on their return from drill, discovered that the contractor had failed to supply the proper quantity of water; and as it was not the first time that such a circumstance had taken place, they determined to make it a matter of personal interference, and repaired to the hotel of the General where they drew up two deep, but without arms, and commenced shouting "Water! water!" They had broken from the barracks after hours, forced their officers and sentries out of the way, and repaired to head-quarters to represent their grievance. Of course, the General rated them, but at the same time addressed them as "gentlemen," and asserted that their conduct was demoralising both to themselves and others. The fortifications at Cairo have made considerable progress; a very good earthwork or redan, with scarp and counterscarp, occupies the position where the rivers unite, under the command of Colonel Wagner, a Hungarian artillery officer; while the delta is strongly occupied by Illinois volunteer forces, with two field batteries and several



INSPECTION OF PENNSYLVANIAN VOLUNTEERS IN THE BARRACKS OF THE CAMP AT ILLINOIS.

guns At Bird's Point, on the opposite shore of the Mississippi, is stationed a detached post, with field intrenchments, held by a regiment of about a thousand Germans, Poles, and Hungarians, with some light artillery, under Colonel Schuttner. Posts are also established higher up on the banks of each river. The bulk of the troops at Camp Defiance, which lies between the levees of the rivers, are encamped in wooden sheds, provided with berths like those on shipboard. These sheds run along the inward sides of the levees, the tops of which are broad enough to serve as carriage-roads. There is no drainage, as they stand on ground below the water level, so that they can only serve as a temporary residence for the troops. The parade, which is the bottom of a swamp, is a fine, open space, cleared of trees and stumps by the labour of the troops, who are most of them as efficient in all regular drill and field exercise as any body of men ever brought into the field at so short a notice. At present, however, they have had no opportunity of testing their prowess in an actual engagement; since, although a Secessionist force occupies a position not far off, it is believed to be a very unimportant one. It would appear, however, that the enemy's spies visit Cairo almost daily, and a close chain of sentries is necessary to prevent access to the camp, while there are frequent reports of scouts being killed or of sentries picked off. By the last accounts, General Prentiss had sent out an expedition secretly to break up the Secessionist camp, and either to disperse them or make them prisoners.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

Mlle. Patti's performance in M. Flotow's highly popular opera of "Martha," at Covent Garden, has been as successful as any of her previous efforts. Since the ever-regretted loss of Bosio there has been no Lady Enrichetta whom we have entirely liked except Miss Louisa Pyne. Not that the part requires any very remarkable qualities and attainments in the artist who undertakes it, but that it is one which is very liable to an exposure of weakness. When Mlle. Patti, for instance, plays Lady Enrichetta, it is only to betray M. Flotow's poverty of musical ideas; and nobody will say that Mlle. Patti lacks any of the first requirements of a great singer. Mlle. Patti is in every respect fitted for the part; and this may be said without disparagement of powers already shown in the dramatic music of Mozart, in the melodious passages of Donizetti, and in the alternately joyous and plaintive harmonies of Bellini. Signor Mario did not abandon his original character of Lionello, otherwise Lord Derby, and, in giving his support for the first time to Mlle. Patti, threw a more than wonted energy into his voice, singing the pretty and pathetic air, "Martha, Martha," with passion as well as tenderness. Signor Graziani is more at home in the part of Plunkett than in any other, histrionically speaking; and as for the vocal opportunities afforded him, that is one which compensates for any lack of strength in the rest. Of course we mean the John "Chi mi dirà di che il bieccher," in which the honours of Sir John Barleycorn are sung in music that would be marvellously English if it were not literally so. If any proof were wanted that national melodies are almost extinct in this country it would be the placid attention of a London audience to music put before them as original, though based on airs which may be discovered in Mr. Chappell's recondite collection. Mme. Didié was the Nancy, and Signor Tagliafico the Sir Tristan, as of old; and it is almost unnecessary to say that they both kept up the comedy as well as they sang the music of the scenes in which they appeared. The little part of the Sheriff was made important by the elaborate fun of M. Zelger.

Mlle. Patti's genuine success in Zerlina has induced the management to give two extra performances of "Don Giovanni," although the farewell of Mme. Grisi has not been repeated. That lady, being, as it would seem, determined to bid adieu in earnest at last, has relinquished the rôle of Donna Anna, which is worthily assumed by Mme. Penco. The remainder of the cast remains unaltered, Mme. Tiberini continuing to represent Donna Elvira, vice Mme. Csillag.

Mme. Corinne de Luigi, a lady who invests a powerful mezzo-soprano voice with a dramatic energy that sometimes approaches the border of exaggeration, made her first and only appearance this season at Willis's Rooms on Wednesday morning. Mme. de Luigi is a pupil of Rossini, and it was, therefore, natural that she should select her chief morceau from that composer's works. Not only did she do this, but she also sang a new melody written for her by the great master and well calculated to develop her peculiar powers. Signor Belletti, Signor Gardoni, and Signor Delle Sedie assisted in the vocal department of this concert, which was furthered instrumentally by Herr Engel.

An international concert-room, in which the English and Continental choral and instrumental societies will be invited to co-operate, is, we hear, to accompany the Exhibition of 1862. A private circular informs us that "The building will be of a temporary character, and afford accommodation for an audience of 12,000 and the orchestra (500 performers)—this, if necessary, on certain occasions could be enlarged when an increased number of performers are required. The necessary capital will be raised by means of a guarantee fund, each guarantee to receive a certain amount in tickets for the performances."

THE LAW AMENDMENT SOCIETY.—The annual dinner of the Law Amendment Society took place on Saturday. Lord Brougham, who presided, referred to the reforms which had been effected, and to others which remained to be accomplished. Foremost among these latter he mentioned a court of criminal appeal. Sir Fitzroy Kelly, in the course of an elaborate speech, expressed the hope that, although the Commons might not approve of the alterations which had been made in the Bankruptcy Bill, they would still allow that measure to pass. The Attorney-General also made some lengthened remarks, in which he warmly complimented Lord Brougham upon the services he had rendered to the cause of law reform. The proceedings were altogether of a very interesting character.

ENGLAND AND THE CATOUB MONUMENT.—A private subscription, contributed by some of our most distinguished statesmen and public men, has been made to express the sympathy of England with Italy on the death of Count Cavour. We find among the subscribers the following names:—The Duke of Argyll, Lord Brougham, the Right Hon. W. Cowper, M.P.; F. Crossley, Esq., M.P.; the Earl of Clarendon, General Lord Clyde, the Duke of Devonshire, Lord Dufferin, the Earl of Dudley, C. Dickens, Esq.; Sir C. Eardley, Bart.; E. de Grey, Esq.; Sir C. Eastlake, President of the Royal Academy; the Right Hon. E. Elliot, M.P.; Viscount Eborac, Earl Fortescue, Lord Foley; Lieut.-General Fox; J. Forster, Esq., LL.D.; Earl Granville; Major-General Sir H. Grant, K.C.B.; the Right Hon. M. Gibson, M.P.; E. H. Gurney, Esq.; G. Carr Glyn, Esq., M.P.; F. Grant, Esq., R. Gurney, Esq., Q.C., Recorder of London; Right Hon. W. Gladstone, M.P.; T. B. Horsfall, Esq., M.P.; M. J. Higgins, Esq.; R. Hanbury, Esq., M.P.; the Earl of Harrowby, Lord Kinnaird; the Hon. A. Kinnaird, M.P.; the Marquis of Lansdowne; Lord Lanesborough; A. H. Laidlaw, Esq., M.P.; Lord Lynden; the Right Hon. Sir J. Lawrence, Bart., K.C.B.; the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor of London, M.P.; R. M. Milnes, Esq., M.P.; S. Morley, Esq.; G. Moore, Esq.; Prof. Geo. Oren; Viscount Palmerston, M.P.; Sir R. Peel, Bart., M.P.; Sir M. Peto, Bart., M.P.; Lord J. Russell, M.P.; Sir J. Romilly; the Baron L. Rothschild, M.P.; the Speaker of the House of Commons; W. Stirling, Esq., M.P.; W. M. Thackeray, Esq.; the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster; and his Grace the Archbishop of York.

EXTRAORDINARY DISCOVERY.—At the end of last week some workmen engaged in taking up the flooring boards in the gallery of Whitechapel Church discovered the dead body of a child about four years of age, perfectly naked, and lying in a straight position. Various explanations have been given of the mode in which it came there. The most likely is that it was put in this place a few years since, when, by the orders of the Secretary of State, the vaults under the church were cleared. One of the workmen, it is thought, might have got possession of the body from one of the coffins, intending to carry it away. Interrupted, he might have placed it in the position in which it was found. An inquest was opened on Saturday before Mr. H. Impey, the Coroner, which is not yet concluded. One of the witnesses, a surgeon, said the body had not been long in the place where it was found, but the deceased must have been dead about twenty-five years. The skin was hard and tanned, and it would remain in that condition for two or three hundred years, for the outer surface of the body was like hard-dried leather. There were no marks of violence. The deceased had in all probability died from some natural cause.

DESPERATE ENCOUNTER.

On Friday week, shortly after twelve o'clock, the greatest consternation was occasioned in Northumberland-street, Strand, London, at the hearing of the report of pistols and a loud outcry on the first floor of No. 16, the chambers of Mr. Roberts, an army agent. A man named Pomfrat raised a cry of "Murder!" and Mr. Ransom, who occupies offices in the same house, saw a Major Murray make his escape from the back window into the yard. Major Murray was bleeding profusely from shot-wounds in the neck and forehead, and was at once led off to Charing-cross Hospital. In the meantime a number of policemen entered the house, and on going up stairs they found the door locked, and as they could obtain no answer, a ladder was procured. Entering the room from the back window, they found it in the most frightful state of confusion, and the floor covered with blood. In the corner near the door they discovered Mr. Roberts in a crouching position, bleeding profusely from numerous wounds on the head and face. On the floor they found two small pistols, one of which had recently been discharged. Mr. Roberts was immediately raised and conveyed to Charing-cross Hospital, where Major Murray had previously arrived.

Major Murray afterwards made the following statement:—This morning, at about half-past eleven, I had come from London-bridge by the boat to Hungerford. I was going to 28, Parliament-street, the office of the Grosvenor Hotel Company, of which I am a director. Mr. Roberts stopped me on Hungerford-bridge, and said to me, "Major Murray, I think?" I said, "That is my name." He said, "You are a director of the Grosvenor Hotel Company?" I replied, "I don't know any greater shareholder than myself but one; how do you know me?" He said, "I have seen you at your meetings at the hotel in Palace-yard," meaning the King's Arms. He said, "I hear that you are about to borrow money." I said, "I am not aware of it." He said, "My office is close here, come with me; I want to speak to you on the matter." I went with him, and sat down by the escritoire. He said, "What are your terms?" I replied, "I really can't tell you; I don't know what we require money, but I will come and tell you at three o'clock to-morrow." All at once he came right behind me, fired a pistol, and shot me in the back of the neck. I fell. When down he shot me again, and the ball glanced from my forehead over the temple on the left side. He stood over me several minutes, and I could feel his breath. I feigned to be dead. He went into the next room, and when I saw him come in again, I sprang up, seized the tongs, and beat him as long as I could. When powerless I removed him to the front room, and, finding the door locked, jumped out of the window. I never saw him before in all my life.

Roberts, whose skull is frightfully fractured, has also made a statement, which does not by any means clear up the mystery. He admits that he had never before Friday week spoken to Major Murray, and adds that his conversation with that gentleman was commenced by himself in Hungerford Market, and that it bore reference to a loan which was required for a hotel company, which he was anxious to arrange on behalf of a client. When questioned as to the identity of his client Roberts gave the name of a gentleman named Anstruther, whom he described as anxious to advance the money. He admits having invited Major Murray to his chambers, and states that on his arrival there the Major first shot himself in the back of his neck, and then attacked him with the tongs. On being asked whether any altercation had occurred previously to Major Murray shooting himself, Roberts says distinctly "No." This is all that has been elicited from Roberts, but from papers found upon his person, taken in connection with documents discovered in his chambers, no doubt whatever is entertained by the police authorities that a clue to the whole affair has been ascertained.

A description of Mr. Roberts's rooms reads like a chapter from a French novel. The Times says—

The front room has originally been furnished in the most luxurious and costly style. On the walls are five water-colour drawings, and between them handsome brackets, supporting statuettes and copies from the antique. Round the room are ranged costly built cabinets and inlaid tables, on which are all sorts of ornaments under large glass shades. It is not, however, until one has been in the room some time that the richness of the furniture attracts notice, for glasses, pictures, statuettes, and vases—even the very cabinets themselves, are almost concealed under the accumulated dust of years. The shades and ornaments are enveloped in this as if coated with a positive fur. In spite of the costliness of its furniture, and the taste which has been bestowed upon its arrangement in the room, it is evident that it has never been cleaned or dusted probably since the things were first placed there many years ago. In the centre of the room is the table at which Mr. Roberts used to work, with the fireplace on the right hand, having an exceedingly handsome white marble mantelpiece, which is marked with bullet-holes. (Mr. Roberts had been practising at the fireplace, it seems.) Yet, almost immediately under the mantelpiece, making a great mound that stretches out into the centre of the floor, are the waste papers which have been crumpled up and thrown aside, and allowed, like the dust, to accumulate undisturbed. It appears to have been the habit of Mr. Roberts to allow no one but himself to enter his room, and thus the papers and the dust and dirt have collected till the former half fill the front room and the latter obscure the contents of both. Except an overturned chair, and papers scattered about, there is very little sign of a struggle in this room.

The back drawing-room was as richly furnished and as dirty as the front. But the dust has here been beaten down and the gloomy richness of the room disturbed by the most desperate of all contests—a contest where strong and angry men struggle to tear and beat each other down with whatever weapon they can seize in their frenzy. If two will beasts had been turned loose to kill each other in this apartment it could not have presented traces of a more prolonged or deadly contest than it does. The furniture is broken and overturned in hideous confusion; the walls, the gilded tables, backs of chairs, and sides of dirty inlaid cabinets are streaked and smeared about with bloody fingers. One may almost trace where blows were struck by the star-shaped splashes of blood along the walls, while over the glass shades of the ornaments and doors of the cabinets it has fallen like rain, as if a bloody mop had been trundled round and round there. When our reporter entered the room Major Murray and Mr. Roberts had only just been removed to the hospital. There were no pools of blood, as they are called, for blood neither sinks into the carpet nor flows away, but there were in many places clots of gore, showing clearly that each had fled from the wounds of some one lying immediately over the actual spot. One is almost forced to this conclusion from the fact that no drops or splashes of blood lead up to these. The furniture was of course overturned, bloody, and knocked about in all directions, as if the struggle had been as long as it was desperate. The remains of the tongs which Major Murray had used upon his assailant or opponent were broken into many pieces, while the stumpy fragment which he continued to wield with such terrible effect was found actually coated with flesh and blood. This, however, is not all. One escritoire, apparently, was either broken open by the chances of the struggle or was forced, for from appearances it would almost seem as if a contest had taken place for the possession of some of the papers that lay clutched and crumpled about. All these are now in the possession of the police. Beneath the window from which Major Murray made his hazardous escape there are, on the inner side, several irregular pools of blood among a pile of scattered papers, which are smeared and saturated with blood and wine. In the corner, near, there are some bottles of wine, one or two of which have been broken among the papers, which, however, appear to have lain there some time. In this corner of the room, close to the window, the awful traces of the conflict are more visible than in any other part. There is an ornamental table and built cabinet sideboard, which only leave a passage wide enough to enable a person to approach the window. It is evident that Major Murray here made his final struggle to escape, for the blood is thrown in long drops, like heavy driving rain, over everything around, far and near. Such fearful violence has been used here that it almost seems as if Mr. Roberts had been trying to throw his antagonist out of window, or endeavouring madly to prevent his escape. The last blows on either side were evidently given on this spot, though Mr. Roberts was not found here, but huddled up in a heap in a corner of the room. Notwithstanding the appalling injuries he had received, he was conscious when the police came, and, though unable to answer questions, kept waving them away with his hand. In a few minutes, however, he became insensible.

Not the least of Major Murray's risks appears to have been his jump from the window. Though assisted by the water-pipe, he had still at least eighteen feet to fall on to a narrow strip of pavement between two areas and rows of iron railings, and how he escaped appears a perfect miracle. Mr. Roberts, on his removal to the hospital was found to have sustained three distinct fractures of the skull and a bad fracture of the cheek bone, as well as a terribly lacerated face and scalp wounds. At first his life was quite despaired of, but after a time he regained his consciousness, and, though still in the most imminent danger, continues to progress favourably.

The Observer suggests that there is a woman in the case. It says that—

A lady passing by the name of Murray has been in the habit of calling

upon Roberts at his offices in Northumberland-street, ostensibly on business matters. The visits of this lady, whoever she may turn out to be (it is certain she is not Major Murray's wife), were so frequent that they excited the astonishment of Mrs. Roberts, who on more than one occasion inquired of Mr. Roberts how it was that Major Murray did not himself call instead of intrusting his business to a female, but she never got from him a satisfactory explanation. On Friday evening, when summoned to Charing-cross Hospital to see her husband, finding that the fracas was a mystery in every circumstance attending it, she turned to Major Murray and said, "Why is not Mrs. Murray (meaning the female already alluded to) sent for, as she, perhaps, may be able to give us some explanation of this?" Whereupon Major Murray turned round upon her and told her she was as mad as her husband.

DEATH OF MR. ROBERTS.

The death of Mr. Roberts is announced just as we are about to go to press. He died on Thursday evening.

THE CASE OF THE BARON DE VIDIL.

WE last week retailed a rumour that a certain French Baron was accused of attempting to murder his son. The Baron has been arrested in Paris, whither he had fled. The story has now come to light. It has been told in a variety of ways: we prefer to give the deposition of the son, Alfred John de Vidil:—

I am the lawful son of Alfred Louis Pons de Vidil, commonly called the Baron de Vidil. On Friday, the 28th of June last, I was invited by my father to go with him on that day to Clarendon, to visit the ex-Queen of the French. I went on the said 28th day of June to the Clarendon Hotel, in Bond-street, where I met my father, and thence went with him to the Waterloo Railway Station, and arrived by train at Twickenham, where two saddle-horses were awaiting us. We went, and made the call at Clarendon. On our return, just before we came to a public-house where a side road leads to the left, he said, "I shall ask which will be the best road," which astonished me, as he knew the road perfectly well. He did not ask, but without saying a word took the left. I said, "I can't understand your coming here." He gave me to understand that he was suffering from bowel complaint. I said, "Won't you turn back and go to the inn?" The lane was quite empty when we entered it; but afterwards a woman appeared at the end. He said, "Will you hold my horse?" I said, "How shall I hold it?" meaning was I to remain on my own horse, or get down. He said, "Oh, never mind." The woman was at the end of the lane. We walked back into the main road. In passing the inn I urged him to take some brandy there. He said, "No, thank you—it does not look a very nice place." When in the lane he told me of his stomachache. I said, "If I had known that, I would have dined at Hampton, as you asked me to do." He said, "That is very kind." On returning to the main road he said he should go to the Duc d'Aumale's, which astonished me, after his saying that he had the stomachache. The road to the Duc d'Aumale's is by a lane leading to the river side. There are several other lanes also leading to the river. The Baron took me down the first of these, and on my expressing some surprise, he said he did not know whether there was a road at the end of it or not. There was no road at the end of it. We returned to the main road. The Baron took me down the second lane, which we both knew did not lead to the Duc d'Aumale's. We then went on to the lane leading down to the Duc d'Aumale's, but to my great surprise he did not go into the house, but went on along the lane, which turns to the left, the end of which is parallel to the road. It turns again to the left into the main road. I made some remark as to his not going into the Duc d'Aumale's. I had just got a little way up the lane leading to the main road when he said we had made a mistake and must turn back. I turned back without saying a word. It is very shady in that corner. I saw no one near. I got a little ahead of the Baron, he being on the right. I had gone a pace or two when I felt a violent blow on my head. I turned round, being all right on the saddle, and saw the Baron's hand uplifted with something in it. With this he struck me another blow, and again raised his arm, when I hurried on my horse, and, having got on a little way, I got down quietly, putting my leg over as usual, and ran on to where a woman and a man were standing. I caught hold of the woman's dress and clung to her, praying her to protect me. The Baron soon arrived on foot, very red. He got over a gate on the left, and, as I afterwards discovered, hurt his hand in doing so. The man who was standing with the woman took me by the hand to lead me to a public-house. He would not let me take his hand as I was dripping with blood. I said to the woman I had knocked my head against the wall, which was not true, and which I said out of fear of my father. I dared not say he had done it. When I got to the public-house, I was taken in and my head bathed with water. The Baron offered to bathe me, and asked me how I was. I could not answer him, and begged him not to touch me, for I was very tender. Mr. Clarke came and saw me with his assistant. He tied up the two wounds—one on the front of my forehead, and the other on the side of my head. The Baron occasionally left the room. In some of these intervals I managed to tell Mr. Clarke that I had not fallen or knocked against a wall, but that he had done it. I entreated him to go with me to town. He sent his assistant, who accompanied me. I mentioned in the public-house that my money would have gone to my aunts and cousin. I have never been married. If I were to die without lawful issue and without making a will my father would succeed to about £30,000. I believe that my father wounded me with intent to murder me.

The man mentioned in the deposition as having witnessed the assault is John Rivers, a labourer. A few days since it was ascertained that Rivers was suffering so severely from consumption that it was not expected he would live long. His deposition was therefore taken in the presence of the prisoner. Rivers said:—

I remember leaving this house on the 28th of June last and going to my work at the river side, down by the Duc d'Aumale's. It was about seven o'clock. I met two gentlemen on horseback. I think I should know them if I saw them again. The elder gentleman had a white hat on. They were riding towards me, the younger one being nearest to the railings. I saw the elder one strike the younger a back-handed blow on the forehead with a whip-handle, or something like it. I could see there was a shiny knob at the end of it. The young man's hat fell off, and he cried out, "Oh, don't—pray don't." I then saw the elder gentleman strike the young man's horse across the head. The young man rode off as fast as he could. The old gentleman said, "Hoy, hoy! here's your hat!" and tried to get his horse back, but it would not go. I stood and looked on. When I had seen all I could I went and picked up the hat. I saw the young man jump from his horse. Both horses were loose. I took the hat to the Swan, where the young gentleman went to, and the landlord gave me a shilling. I saw William Loscombe that evening in his boat, and I told him all about it. I also told my wife.

The witness was asked to point out the elder gentleman, and after looking steadily round the room he fixed his eyes on the prisoner, and said, "That is the man." Again, when the prisoner put on his hat, he said, "I have not the least doubt of it." The son was then brought into the room, and the witness immediately identified him also.

On Wednesday the Baron was brought up at Bow-street Police Court to answer the charge of having attempted to murder his son. The investigation, however, could not be entered upon, in consequence of the son positively refusing to give evidence. When about to be sworn he said—

I am placed in most painful circumstances. I am not willing to proceed any further, and I hope I shall not be pressed to give evidence. I am not well, and I don't think—I don't know (a pause)—I don't think I can give evidence. I do not know what will become of my father if—if I am pressed. I had better state honestly to you that when I asked for the warrant I did so only for my own protection, not thinking it would lead to this. I did not think that they would succeed—that it would be executed. I did not think they would find my father. I cannot tell what effect it will have upon me, but I hope I shall be able to undergo whatever you may put upon me or require if I refuse to give evidence. If you insist upon my speaking I am in a dreadful position. You do not know all. I understand that my father has accused me, to a certain extent—he has made a charge against me. If he says anything against me then I shall be compelled to tell everything. I wish him to know that if he insists I must tell all. Many gentlemen have kindly moved for me and assisted me. I wish to state that they have done so only at my own request and for the protection of my life. I do not wish to say anything against my father unless he insists on—He has been a most unfortunate man, and I do not know if it is not the duty of children to bear even more than I have done—to bear anything for the sake of their parents. It is very painful. I cannot say more.

Mr. Corrie informed the young man that the ends of justice demanded that he should not withhold the necessary proof in so grave a charge. Still adhering to his first resolution, and persisting in his refusal, the magistrate ordered him into custody. Afterwards, on the intercession of counsel, and the representation of a medical man that confinement was likely to prove prejudicial to his health, young De Vidil was handed over to his friends, who have become responsible for his reappearance. An application to admit the Baron to bail was refused.

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